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THE TIMES

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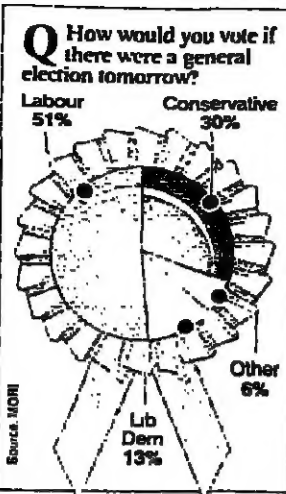
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Feelgood factor swings middle class to Tories

By PETER RIDDALL

THE Tories are winning back the support of middle-class voters amid signs of greater public optimism about the economy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The party has recovered to level-pegging with Labour among the middle classes for the first time in two and a half years. This is a crucial shift since the middle classes now make nearly half the electorate and Labour had made big inroads in this traditionally Tory group after Tony Blair's election as Labour leader two years ago. At the end of 1994, Labour had a 48 to 31 point lead among the middle classes. But now both parties are around 40 per cent.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, confirms that Tory support generally is on a slowly rising trend, though Labour retains a commanding overall lead with only eight months to go before the probable election date of May 1. Tory support has risen one point over the past month to 30 per cent, with Labour slipping two points to 51 per cent, its lowest since September last year.

The Liberal Democrats have advanced one point to 13 per cent over the month. Tory support is now three points higher than a year ago, and five to six points higher than two years ago. The key influence seems to have been the return of the "feelgood" factor since there are still only flickers of a revival in satisfaction with the Government or in John Major's personal rating.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring those believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, stands at plus two points. This is the first positive rating for two years: as recently as last winter the index was around minus 15 points. This improvement reflects rising living standards and consumer spending, coupled with falling unemployment and a pick-up in the housing market.

The Tories' aggressive anti-Labour campaign "demonising" Mr Blair may have helped undermine Mr Blair's previously high personal rating. The index measuring those satisfied/less dissatisfied with the way Mr Blair is doing his job as Labour leader dropped from plus 19 to plus 11 points at the end of July after the rows over the Shadow Cabinet elections and the subsequent reshuffle.

Nonetheless, Labour's overall poll position remains much more favourable than at the same stage before previous elections. Eight months before the last three elections, Labour was either well behind the Tories or, at best, only a couple of points ahead. The present gap is 21 points.

Labour strategists recognise that Tory attacks, and reports about internal divisions, may have increased negative views of the party. Their counter-attack will start today when Mr Blair launches a series of regional tours with a visit to north Wales and the north-west.

The decline in Mr Blair's rating has meant that Paddy Ashdown is now the most popular party leader. MORI interviewed 1,708 adults at 15 ward sampling points between August 20 and 25. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), who are undecided (7) or who refused to say (3).

Prince not likely to marry soon, says Major

By ALAN HAMILTON AND EMMA WILKINS

THE marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales ended with the granting of a decree absolute yesterday as the Prime Minister said there was no immediate prospect of the Prince marrying again.

John Major said: "It is very sad for both the Princess and Prince Charles and their children. People think that was the right thing to happen. I see no prospect of a remarriage at this stage."

Asked if a remarriage by the Prince could cause constitutional problems, Mr Major, who was visiting Faslane naval base on the Clyde for the decommissioning of Britain's last Polaris submarine, said that the question was hypothetical. "There is no prospect of Prince Charles marrying again at the moment. May be at some stage in the future — but that may be some years ahead."

Diana, Princess of Wales, stripped of the title Her Royal Highness, began her new life as a single woman yesterday wearing a broad smile and her wedding and engagement rings as she attended a lunchtime engagement in London.

Attention will now focus even more intensely on the Prince's long standing friendship with Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, herself a divorcee. Some months ago in a rare public statement on the matter the Prince made it known that he had no immediate intention of marrying her or anyone else. However, the Prince will now be forced to confront the issue of whether to maintain absolute discretion in his relationship or gradually to introduce Mrs Parker Bowles to the public as his regular companion.

At the same time as the 15-year union was being terminated by a civil servant's stamp on a sheet of paper, Buckingham Palace announced a decree by the Queen making clear that women who acquire the Her Royal Highness style by marriage will in future always lose it on divorce.

The Palace said that its decision to announce new rules on royal titles after divorce was not intended as a snub to the Princess, but to avoid debates of the kind that arose this year over the divorces of the Princess and of the Duchess of York, who also lost the title Her Royal Highness.

The text of the Queen's Letters Patent, to be published in the *London Gazette* tomorrow, make clear that, in future, divorced wives of male descendants of the sovereign will not be entitled to use the style Royal Highness. Rules for the title's use were last clarified by George V in 1917.

The divorce proceedings came to a conclusion in an office at the Family Division of the High Court in Somerset House yesterday, when the Prince's lawyers applied for the decree nisi granted on July 15 to be made absolute. A clerk issued the necessary certificate, and lawyers took copies away to give to the parties.

The Prince of Wales remained at Balmoral, where he is holidaying with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and his sons Prince William and Prince Harry. Five hundred miles away, his former wife kept a long-standing public engagement. She was in light-hearted mood as she visited the offices of the English National Ballet in South Kensington.

Over a lunch of sandwiches and mineral water, the Princess spoke to staff and members of the company before watching a short performance of the ballet, *X. N. Tricities*. Dancers were unsure how to address her, but Derek Deane, artistic director, avoided the issue by greeting her with a simple "good morning".

Some of the 62 members of the company curtsied while others called her "Ma'am". "She was full of her bright sense of humour although she was slightly quieter than usual," Mr Deane said.



Diana, Princess of Wales, wearing her wedding and engagement rings in London yesterday

Slapped wrists for Saatchi's 'demon eyes'

By ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Advertising Standards Authority yesterday issued an unprecedented rebuke to a political party when it ruled that the Tories "demon eyes" poster of Tony Blair breached the industry's code of conduct.

The ruling, the first against a political advertisement, was welcomed by many Tory MPs who had been appalled by the depiction of Mr Blair with red shining eyes.

The authority rejected a complaint that the advertisement, carried in three national newspapers, had been offensive to readers or attributed satanic qualities to Mr Blair. But it ruled that the campaign had depicted Mr Blair as "sinister and dishonest" and should not be repeated.

Matt Alderson, director general of the ASA, said the ruling was a rap across the knuckles for the Tories and M & C Saatchi Agency. She said: "They should both have known better. Conservative Central Office should not have run this advertisement. We are talking about an offensive portrayal of a politician."

But Conservative Central Office was unrepentant. "We think Tony Blair is sinister and dishonest and will continue to say so," said an official.

"The advertisement cost £125,000. We got millions of pounds of free publicity from it. We are happy."

Mr Blair told *Channel 4* News yesterday: "It is nasty, it is vicious, it is negative. It is all the things that you would expect from the Conservative Party. It is rather inconsistent with John Major's assertion after the death of John Smith that he wanted to clean up party politics."

Sir Julian Crichtley, Tory MP for Aldershot, one of a number of Tory MPs who criticised the advertisement, said last night: "Central Office led with its chin and got what it deserved. It was a disgraceful campaign and foolish to the extreme. The whole point of Tony Blair is that he is Little Red Riding Hood, not the Big Bad Wolf. If only Central Office would ask the opinion of wise elder Tories ... instead of going to some smart alecs in the advertising profession."



Botham's boy lives up to his name

By RICHARD WHITEHEAD

ENGLISH cricket may have found a knight in shining armour in the hour of its greatest need — and his name is Botham.

Liam Botham, 19-year-old son of England's greatest all-rounder, announced his arrival in the county game yesterday with a first appearance that proved he has inherited his father's talent for the theatrical.

In Botham's first appearance for Hampshire he took five wickets for 67 runs off 15 overs against Middlesex at Portsmouth and unveiled an ability sadly lacking in the England attack during their Test series defeat by Pakistan. Bowling at a pace somewhat slower than his father in his heyday but with a strikingly similar run-up, he revealed the knack of ensnaring batsmen with bad balls which was patented by Botham Senior.

His first victim was Mike Gatting, a former England colleague of his father's, via a leg stump half-volley which the former England captain deposited in the hands of a fielder. "He seems to have inherited his father's flair," Gatting wryly observed. "Ian won't be able to give me much stick — he never got me out once in 15 years."

John Carr, soon to become cricket secretary of the English Cricket Board, was Botham's next conquest, caught by the wicketkeeper off a wide long hop and he completed a triumphant



Liam Botham: familiar cricket pitch theatrics

Tufnell provided the two other more conventional wickets.

Liam, a beefy 6ft 1in and 13½ stone, was not even supposed to be playing yesterday. John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, declared himself recovered from injury and able to play and Botham was dispatched to appear for the second XI along the coast at Southampton. Stephenson then suffered a recurrence of his injury and Botham was summoned by mobile phone to return to Portsmouth.

Botham Senior did not see his son's performance which was a big improvement on his own county championship debut. That was on May 8, 1974 when he took 0 for 15 against Lancashire at Taunton.

Loyalists order out hardliners

The loyalist paramilitary leadership last night cracked down on hardliners when it ordered two men to leave Northern Ireland within 72 hours or face "summary justice".

Billy Wright, from Portadown, Co Armagh, who served a sentence on an Ulster Volunteer Force prison wing, and Alex Kerr, who is on remand, were given the warning by the Combined Loyalist Military Command ... Page 2



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Two men given 72 hours to go as paramilitary leaders move to clamp down on rogue elements

Loyalist hardliners told to leave Ulster or die

BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of loyalist terrorists last night moved to clamp down on Protestant hardliners by ordering two men to leave Northern Ireland within 72 hours or face "summary justice".

Billy Wright, who served a prison sentence on an Ulster Volunteer Force wing, and Alex Kerr, who is currently on remand in prison, were given the blunt warning by the Combined Loyalist Military Command. Mr Wright,

who played a leading role during the disturbances at Drumcree last month, was given 72 hours to leave the Province. Mr Kerr, who is facing terrorist charges, was ordered to leave within 72 hours of his release from prison.

In a statement, the Military Command told the two men that they would be killed if they ignored the order. "Failure by either man to comply with this directive will result in summary justice." The same threat was made to anyone supporting the two men. The

statement, from the umbrella organisation for the three main loyalist terrorist groups, was its most dramatic announcement since its ceasefire in October 1994. Mr Wright, 36, has a devoted following in his home town of Portadown, Co Armagh. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and the local MP, had talks with him at the height of the loyalist disturbances in Drumcree and asked him to use his influence to restrain loyalist paramilitaries.

Later Mr Wright said that he was bewildered by the murder of

Michael McGoldrick, a Roman Catholic taxi driver, who was shot dead in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on the second day of the stand-off. "Loyalists have shown they do not have a bloodlust," he said. He added that at Drumcree loyalists had succeeded in resisting sinister pressure from the IRA.

Ian Paisley Jr, the justice spokesman of the Democratic Unionists, last night condemned the loyalist terrorists' statement: "Leaving the personalities aside, any 'death threat on any individual by any organisation is contemptible. It is

repugnant and I condemn it with every ounce of strength I have."

Mr Paisley said that the loyalist statement would only play into the hands of the IRA. He also questioned whether the Progressive Unionists and the Ulster Democratic Party, which have links to the paramilitaries, could continue to attend the multiparty talks in the light of the statement.

The statement by the loyalist leadership came 24 hours after David Ervine, a leader of the Progressive Unionists, said that the loyalist ceasefire was close to

breaking point. He accused the Irish Government and the Social Democratic and Labour Party of standing shoulder to shoulder with the IRA, and added that he had never known loyalists to feel such vitriol towards Dublin.

Protestants and Roman Catholics reached agreement over a loyalist parade on Saturday, raising hopes for the success of the Independent Review of Parades and Marches which began its work yesterday.

Dr Peter North, the chairman of the new body, said that he was

greatly encouraged by the agreement, which will allow members of the Royal Black Preceptory to march through a section of the predominantly Catholic village of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.

The Independent Review was set up after the disturbances last month in the wake of the loyalist stand-off at Drumcree. Dr North, the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, said in Belfast yesterday: "I am delighted with the local agreement. It could not have been a more opportune step to have been taken for the start of our work."

Loans help Tories pay off £11.4m overdraft

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEBATE over the sources of Tory funding revived yesterday when the party announced it had moved into the black for the first time in a decade by paying off an £11.4 million overdraft in 15 months.

But the turnaround was achieved only by borrowing millions of pounds from wealthy supporters and local Tory associations.

Conservative Central Office owes £8.5 million in interest-free loans, up from £5.9 million last year. The extra loan income was crucial in clearing the overdraft with the Royal Bank of Scotland. The overdraft had fallen from £11.4 million to £1.9 million in the last financial year.

Figures published by Central Office yesterday showed that income from donations soared from £12.7 million to £18.8 million. About 75 per cent of the cash was donated by private benefactors and companies.

Rebel Tory activists, who have challenged the party high command to publish the names of all donors, said they would mount a fresh assault at the Tory Party conference fringe.

Eric Chalker, a leading member of the Charter Movement which is pressing for change, said: "The improved financial position creates even more worries. While I welcome the fact that the party has now more financial freedom to fight the general election it has been achieved at the expense of raising it from secretive sources."

Labour demanded a state-

ment on the figures from the Prime Minister. John Major attempted to distance himself from party fundraising after the 1992 election by delegating authority to the treasurer's department.

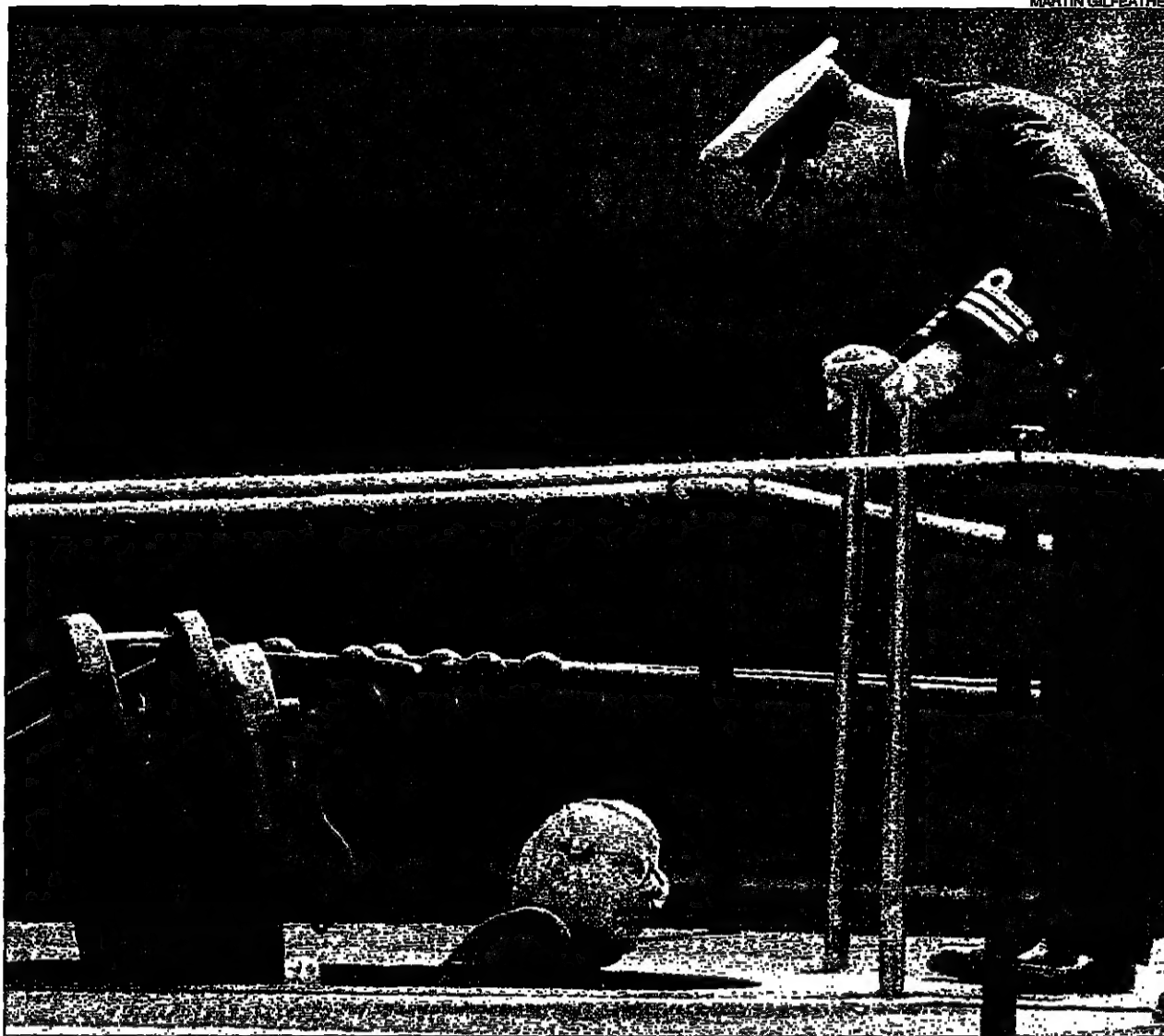
Last year Mr Major visited the Yorkshire home of Graham Kirkham, the founder of the DFS chain, to appeal for financial support. A £4 million loan followed which was later converted into a £5 million donation. Mr Kirkham was knighted in the New Year's Honours for charitable work.

Brian Wilson, Labour's campaigns manager, said: "John Major cannot walk away from this. The funds are raised in his name as leader of the party. The Tories' refusal to reveal funding sources remains one of the great democratic deficits in public life."

Labour is to publish its own annual accounts next week and will name all donors who have given more than £5,000. The party has pledged to change the law on funding, to create more transparency, if they win the election.

The balance sheet shows that the Tories achieved an operating surplus last year of more than £7 million. But an analysis of the figures show that if the party sold every asset, including Conservative Central Office in Smith Square, which is valued at £6.3 million, it would still be £615,000 in debt.

Tory strategists yesterday emphatically denied that millions of pounds came from abroad and said the money came from reputable individuals or private companies.



Mr Major on HMS Vanguard at the naval base at Faslane yesterday. He was later taken to sea on the boat

Last Polaris sub bows out after 30 years 'undetected by friend or foe'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE last of the Royal Navy's Polaris submarines, which was launched with a bottle of homemade elderberry wine in 1967, was decommissioned yesterday. John Major and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, were present for the ceremony at the Faslane naval base on the Clyde that brought to an end almost 30 years of Polaris patrols. As the Royal Ensign was lowered from HMS Repulse, a piper played *Auld Lang Syne*.

All four Polaris boats are now decom-

missioned, and the two bigger and more powerful Trident submarines will take over as Britain's independent strategic nuclear deterrent until the full four-boat force is in service by the end of the century. Mr Major was treated to a ride in the first of them, HMS Vanguard.

HMS Repulse returned to Faslane in May after completing 60 patrols, each lasting about three months. Commander David Phillips, her last commanding officer, said: "I feel considerable pride in her achievements. In March this year she sailed for her 60th deterrent patrol right on time, and on arrival at Faslane in May

concluded the Royal Navy's first chapter of its guardianship of the nation's strategic defence."

Mr Major paid tribute to the men who had mounted the patrols "undetected by friend or foe, every minute of every day of every year from 1969 to May this year". He added: "I have no doubt that we are right to maintain a minimum credible strategic nuclear deterrent for the UK. We will continue to do so for as long as our security needs require us to do so. Even though circumstances have changed, the world still remains an uncertain and dangerous place."

Three held after £20m drugs raid

Two men and a woman are being questioned at a central London police station after heroin with an estimated street value of £20 million was seized by police yesterday when they raided a car park. The seizure is thought to be the largest made by police alone.

Officers from the South East Regional Crime Squad found 50 kg of the drug inside the car and another 50 kg under the rear seat in a hotted-out compartment when the vehicle was dismantled by experts. Police said that a large quantity of money was also found in the raid. For operational reasons, police are not disclosing full details of the raid.

Gardeners win case

Anthony and Ann Jolley, the gardeners sacked from the estate of Sebastian de Ferranti, the millionaire industrialist, were unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal has ruled. However, the tribunal said there had been a 75 per cent contributory fault by Mr and Mrs Jolley, which will be taken into account at a later compensation hearing.

Seamen killed by gas

Four of the five Japanese seamen killed off the west coast of Ireland last week died as they tried to rescue their chief engineer who was overcome by freon gas as he repaired a refrigeration unit. An inquest in Cork yesterday concluded that all five, including the captain of the *Taisei Maru*, died from gas poisoning. Their bodies will be flown home today.

Tests clear rape suspect

Genetic tests on an alleged rapist arrested in Brittany last week have ruled him out as a suspect in the continuing investigation into the rape and murder of the British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson. French police said the suspect had allegedly confessed to two other rapes and one attempted rape in the region in the past three months.

Butt charge dropped

A criminal damage charge against the Manchester United player Nicky Butt has been dropped. The 21-year-old midfielder had been expected to face a two-day hearing before magistrates in Trafford, Greater Manchester, accused of causing £300 damage to a car door. But the Crown Prosecution Service has withdrawn the charge.

Theatre in cash crisis

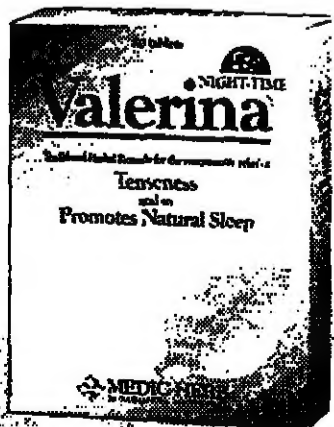
A theatre set up in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, by Alan Ayckbourn, Britain's most successful living playwright, is facing a cash crisis only four months after it opened. A shortfall in funding from its three main sponsors means the Stephen Joseph complex is likely to be £50,000 in the red at the end of its first year.

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Ministers call for limit on Brussels' 'intrusive' powers

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will next week demand curbs on the "intrusive" power of Brussels as they step up their campaign to wrest control of national legislation from the European Commission.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has increased pressure on fellow European Union members to support British demands for severe restrictions on Brussels' power to intervene in national lawmaking.

The demand for greater powers at national level was unveiled yesterday when the Government published a protocol that would reduce the opportunity for new laws to be introduced across the European Union. The protocol would require an EU institution to prove its case to introduce legislation across member states, rather than at national level. Foreign Office sources said that the protocol would "help to improve the quality of European legislation, and curb some of its more intrusive aspects".

The UK will press for the protocol to be added to the EU Treaty as amended at Maastricht, strengthening the rules on subsidiarity, the principle whereby action is taken where possible at member-state level, rather than across the EU.

Ministers signalled their plan to increase pressure on the Commission to hand back powers to nation states in the Government's White Paper on the future of Europe, which was published in March. The draft protocol is to be discussed at the inter-govern-

mental working group in Brussels next week.

Although ministers of other member states have voiced concern over the reduced powers of national Parliaments, the British proposal is unlikely to win the necessary support. However, the call for tougher controls will answer some Euro-sceptic demands for Britain to take the lead in trying to dismantle Brussels' powers.

The proposed protocol says: "A Community institution shall not adopt a measure unless it is satisfied that the objective of the measure is clearly established, that the objective is aimed at meeting one or more of the objectives of the Treaty, and that the necessary legal basis for its adoption exists. The (EU) Commission shall propose the simplest form of action possible, consistent with satisfactory achievement of the objective of the measure and the necessity for effective enforcement." The protocol states that where the Commission chooses binding rather than non-binding measures, regulations rather than directives, or detailed measures rather than frameworks, it would have to explain why.

In July, Britain tabled proposals at the inter-governmental conference covering the European Court of Justice, quota-hopping by fishermen, animal welfare, the quality of EU legislation, competition rules for agricultural products, trans-European networks and the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Howard challenged on jail releases

BY RICHARD FORD

A CONVICTED drugs pusher will mount a test case today against Michael Howard to determine whether thousands of prisoners get early release and leave the Government with compensation payments of several hundred million pounds.

John Naughton, aged 32, serving jail terms for burglary and drugs offences will challenge the home secretary's decision to stop the early release of inmates from jails.

Lawyers acting for Naughton, a petty criminal from Sheffield, who is in Lindholme prison near Doncaster will seek a judicial review of Mr Howard's decision last Friday to halt further releases.

Ministers are anxious to secure a court victory on the issue of the calculation of jail terms because of possible compensation payments. One source suggested the prison service had estimated a figure of £500m-£750m in compensation going back to 1967.

Naughton's solicitor, John Dickinson, said it would be argued that the time spent on remand before conviction should count against each consecutive sentence. It will be heard in the Divisional Court by Lord Justice Simon Brown sitting with Mr Justice Popplewell.

A total of 537 inmates were released early before Mr Howard's intervention. Richard Tilt, the director general of the service, is to conduct an inquiry into events leading to the debacle.

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The Venice Film Festival: £30m epic on Michael Collins draws fire from both sides of conflict

Concern as film revives hero of Irish terrorism

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN VENICE

A POTENTIALLY explosive film about the Irish terrorist Michael Collins is awaiting judgment from politicians as well as critics when it premieres this weekend. The director, Neil Jordan, has already offered a preview to political representatives in Britain and Ireland, amid concern that the film may worsen tensions over the collapse of the Ulster ceasefire.

Rightwingers have accused Jordan of making an "anti-British travesty" while republicans have attacked him for glorifying a man who was killed as a traitor. It stars Liam Neeson, seen as a sympathetic figure after his role in *Schindler's List* and *Rob Roy*.

The £30 million film, *Michael Collins*, is tipped to be showered with prizes at the festival and the Oscars. Neeson, who was raised as a Catholic in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, is said to have been dreaming of the role for 20 years. He even named his first-born son after Collins.

The early 20th-century Irish freedom-fighter is said to have invented urban terrorism. During the last years of British rule, he ruthlessly ordered the killing of British agents, including 19 in a



Liam Neeson as Collins, one of his own heroes

single morning. He narrowly escaped execution for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising and the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a forerunner of the IRA, to pioneer a guerrilla movement.

In 1922 the war for Irish independence ended in truce and Collins took part in negotiations with the British, led by Lloyd George. In signing the Anglo-Irish treaty which partitioned Ireland and fell short of an all-Ireland republic, Collins recognised that he had signed his own death warrant. A civil war erupted in the south and

Collins, known as the "Big Fella" was killed in an ambush in his native Co Cork in 1922 at the age 31.

Collins is remembered as one of the most flamboyant patriots that Ireland has ever known. Long after his murder, he was an inspiration to colonial causes worldwide.

He was also famous for his love of women. Julia Roberts, an off-screen former girlfriend of Neeson — who is now married to Natasha Richardson — plays his on-screen lover, Kitty Kiernan. The love scenes have been described as "electrifying". Collins's murder came just two months before they were due to marry.

One critic described Neeson's performance as "an powerful that the ambush scenes are some of the most heart-breaking ever filmed". The film, which co-stars Alan Rickman, is to be released in America in October. A British date is yet to be confirmed.

Its producer, Stephen Woolley, countered criticism by describing the film as a plea for peace.

Jordan is no stranger to controversy. He directed *The Crying Game*, an Oscar-winning drama about a disaffected IRA gunman who falls in love with a transvestite.



The director, Neil Jordan. He has been offering previews to politicians

De Niro 'not the mean street kid of his image'

BY DALYA ALBERGE

ROBERT DE NIRO'S tough Mafia screen image and his code of silence about his real-life youth are being challenged. An unauthorised biography claims to have discovered that he was a happy child with loving parents, not the mean kid from the slum backstreets.

Nor was he even particularly Italian. His father was a second-generation Italian and his mother of Irish-American-Dutch stock.

Andy Doogan, his biographer, has been saying that it suits the studios to portray him as a quiet loner with a tough background. De Niro, star of *Raging Bull* and *Mean Streets*, perpetuates that image by refusing to discuss his childhood.

By talking to De Niro's childhood friends and neighbours, but refusing to name his sources, Mr Doogan, believes he has unmasked the real De Niro in *Untouchable: Robert de Niro Unauthorised*, published by Virgin on September 19.

Far from hanging around with violent gangs, De Niro was a decent kid from an artistic family. On one occasion he was ejected from a department store for travelling the wrong way up an escalator with his friends. "That", Mr Doogan discovered, "was just about as much trouble as he got into."

His father was a gifted

painter, a contemporary of Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, who was "so dedicated to the pursuit of excellence", he destroyed works and painted over canvases. Although his talent was recognised in New York, he disliked the art world and the thought of selling any of his work. De Niro's mother, also a talented painter in her own right, built up a relatively successful typesetting business. Although they divorced when De Niro was two, they both continued to care about him.

De Niro was so close to his father that at his death, Mr Doogan said, he kept his studio as it was; he also liked to spend time there alone. "We have a facade of a tough guy. But here is a sad man who misses his father."

His latest film *Sleepers* has been chosen to open the Venice festival. It co-stars Dustin Hoffman, who yesterday defended the violence in it only months after he had launched a scathing attack on the gratuitous bloodletting of many Hollywood films.

Hoffman said that there was a difference between the mindless brutality of the violent film genre and the violence in *Sleepers* which is based on a true story of sadism in a reform school. "I don't see how you can ever get in trouble by telling the truth," he said.

Jordan carves 'Big Fella' a niche in the pantheon of romantic heroes

MICHAEL COLLINS is one of the great "ifs" of history. How different would Anglo-Irish history have been if Collins had not been gunned down by his own people in 1922, at the age of 31?

Jordan's script is a careful abstract of Collins's life and death, which simplifies a convoluted piece of history without overly distorting it.

A devotee of the Irish independence movement from his youth, Collins quickly became one of its leaders. He created an intelligence machine that effectively

penetrated the secrets of Dublin Castle, and developed a form of guerrilla warfare that is still a model for resistance movements around the world.

As played by Liam Neeson, his charm and charisma must have been immense: they not only endeared him to the Irish nation, but even impressed his opponents Lloyd George and Churchill when he came to London as plenipotentiary to the Anglo-Irish treaty negotiations in 1921.

In signing the treaty, Collins recognised that he signed his own

Rather than endangering the chances of peace, the film offers an objective view which is more likely to increase general understanding of the troubles,

writes David Robinson

death warrant. The concessions he agreed, as the best deal he could get, brought him into direct conflict with the doctrinaire Eamon de Valera — his former ally and comrade-in-arms — and eventually threw Ireland into civil

war. Dealing with an inevitably inflammatory subject, Jordan offers what seems a creditably objective view of this complicated piece of history, in which it is easy enough to see the roots of later troubles.

It is certainly more likely to increase understanding rather than foment misunderstandings in the climate of the modern peace process.

The British part in this history was not creditable (and hadn't been for 700 years) but the film's tone is not anti-British. What it depicts of the 1916 executions, the atrocities of the Black-and-Tans, the excesses of the intelligence services, are all well enough documented.

For Jordan, the major conflict is between the pragmatic, humanist

Collins and the chilly fanatic De Valera (an amazing interpretative impersonation of the real man, as we remember him from old newsreels, by Alan Rickman).

His boldest piece of historical speculation is to show De Valera directly linked to Collins's assassination.

Jordan says: "I have never lost more sleep over the making of a film than I have over *Michael Collins*. But I'll never make a more important one."

The project goes back some 14 years, when David Putnam com-

missioned a script from Jordan. It is hard to predict how the film will impress the Venice audience and jury following the premiere on Saturday. The sweep and spectacle, the performances (with Julia Roberts as Collins's girl friend) and the intelligence with which history is dramatised, will certainly be admired.

Perhaps, too, Neil Jordan's film will assure Michael Collins a place alongside Che Guevara and Salvatore Giuliano in the universal pantheon of romantic revolutionary heroes.

Obsessed mother killed two sons

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY aged 14 screamed "I don't want to die, Mummy", as she stabbed him and his 11-year-old brother to death, an inquest was told yesterday.

A neighbour who heard Rhodri Williams's repeated pleading at 5am on March 15 thought he was having a nightmare. She told the hearing at Swindon, Wiltshire, Karen Goldsmith heard a thud and running footsteps but went back to sleep thinking the boy had been comforted by one of his parents.

The next day she learnt that Rhodri and his brother Steffan had been found dead in bedrooms at their home in Wootton Bassett. Their mother, Isabelle, 41, had used the carving knife she had used on the boys to kill herself.

David Masters, the Wiltshire coroner, ruled that Mrs Williams committed suicide and that her sons were unlawfully killed. He said she had been obsessed with an "inherited evil" and carried out the killings while acutely depressed.

He noted a "telling phrase" in evidence — not given in full in court — from the Rev Paul Edwards, a Jesuit priest, who had counselled Mrs Williams

for her depression. The coroner said: "It seemed to him in many discussions that he had with Isabelle that she was oppressed and obsessed with an inherited evil. It was the result of that obsession that brought her not only to her death but to those of her two boys as well."

Dr Roger Ainsworth, a Home Office pathologist, said both boys had "defence" knife wounds on their fingers and multiple stab wounds to their chests. They had apparently also been struck with a mallet.

Neville Shaw, a counsellor from Swindon, said Mrs Williams had spoken to him of suicide and killing her children at a session two days before she died. Detective Inspector Graham Hattswell said she left letters that showed she intended to take her own life and those of Rhodri and Steffan.

Summing up, the coroner said it appeared Mrs Williams had a fixed idea of herself as a "bad character" who could not change. She believed she felt that that part of her character had passed to her sons. The evidence was unequivocal that the boys were killed by their own mother.

Woman collapses after phone threat

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AN ELDERLY woman was close to death last night after collapsing with fright when she received a threatening phone call.

Yvonne de Havilland dialled 999 before suffering a heart attack. Police found her lying on the floor by the phone in her home in Wheatley Hill, Co Durham.

Detective Inspector Tim Wilson, who is leading the search for the caller, said: "I am treating this inquiry as seriously as I would the most severe physical assault because the telephone was used as a weapon."

The pensioner was only able to say that the caller had told her: "You are going to be killed" before slipping into unconsciousness. Last night she was critically ill on a life support machine.

Mrs de Havilland had picked up the phone at her small terraced home at 7.50pm on Tuesday. Two officers went to her house and called an ambulance, but while they comforted her she passed out and her heart stopped. Paramedics carried out emergency heart massage and revived her.

Mr Wilson said: "This is a lady who lived alone, has few

relatives and had no known enemies. There is no conceivable reason why she should have received such a call. We don't know whether the caller was a man or a woman because she was in such a terrible state when she called our switchboard."

Police later said that Mrs de Havilland, who is divorced, had been receiving nuisance calls for some time. The call that led to her collapse was the second she had taken that day. She had visited the local police station to report the first when the second call was made.

Dot Leigh, 45, her friend of 28 years, said: "Whoever made the call said they were going to do her over. She became very upset and it appears she suffered an epileptic fit."

"She had been getting crank calls at her old address and she decided to go ex-directory. She was very upset and couldn't understand why someone would want to make the calls. Nothing was ever said and there was lots of heavy breathing and it really frightened her." Mrs de Havilland is a former bus conductor, but has not worked for many years because of her epilepsy.

Woman who walked 3,000 miles to map London's streets dies aged 89

BY LIN JENKINS

PHYLLIS PEARSALL, who put modern London on the map by starting the A to Z street atlas, has died, aged 89. Mrs Pearsall, an artist and author, who was still running the company she started 60 years ago, enjoyed a bohemian life.

The initial guide provided the first correct maps of the city for 20 years, but only because Mrs Pearsall walked 3,000 miles. She would rise at 5am and walk for 18 hours until she had listed all 23,000 roads.

The first edition almost omitted Trafalgar Square after a slight accident with the shoe box containing details of streets beginning "T", but a sharp-eyed compositor asked if there was a reason why it was missing.

Selling the guide proved difficult for a petite, if animated, woman in the days

when nearly all reps were male. Initial reaction to her efforts was to ask if she was beddable. "I said I was too busy doing the maps," she explained.

But W H Smith took 250 copies and she formed the Geographers' A-Z Map Company. Her enthusiasm for her work led people to believe that the business was her great love. "The maps allow me to paint for joy, not money," she said.

She was forced to leave Roadean at the age of 14 when her father, a Hungarian emigre mapmaker, went bankrupt and fled to America and her Irish-Italian mother thought the presence of a child detrimental to her life with her lover, the painter Alfred E. Orr.

She crossed the Channel to teach English conversation in France and scraped a living painting portraits. She married an older artist and settled in

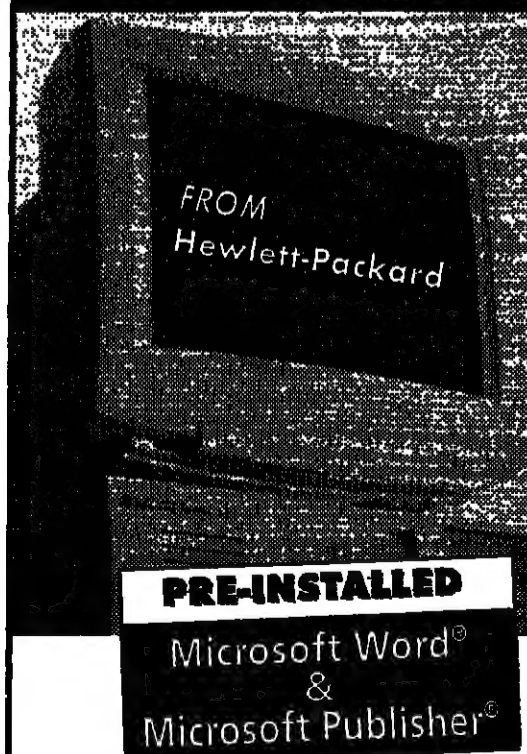
Spain for eight years before leaving him without a word. Mrs Pearsall was back in London when her uncle turned up and said the family was going back into the map business. She lived in Shoreham-by-Sea in a modest flat, driving herself to the office well into her eighties, having passed her test, aged 59, after 259 lessons.

The business was turned into a trust some years ago to protect her employees, whom she described as friends. A trustee company was set up holding 100 per cent of the shares for the staff. She was prompted to safeguard the staff after the owner of a London shop she used died and his family put the shop up for sale, giving the employees a fortnight's notice.

Asked a few years ago whether she ever got lost in London, she replied: "Always, dear."

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History offers scant hope of happy ending for Prince



Charles: urged to delay

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND EMMA WILKINS

THE Prince of Wales became a free man yesterday morning. But while free in law to marry again, his options appear everywhere bound in chains.

The Prince has said in the past that he has no intention of marrying Camilla Parker Bowles, or anyone else, in the foreseeable future. Yet yesterday the Countess of Longford, biographer, observer and friend of the Royal Family, said she believed that the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles would marry within the year and that the country would come to accept the arrangement.

When asked, the country is not so sure. Opinion polls in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* found that more than 80 per cent of those

questioned were against the Prince marrying Mrs Parker Bowles.

The only modern precedent he can look to for guidance or hope is the 1936 abdication. Edward VIII suggested to the Cabinet that he enter a morganatic marriage with Wallis Simpson, in which his wife would forgo all position, title and inheritance, as would any children of the union. But Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, pointed out that morganatic marriage did not exist in English law. It still does not: a morganatic marriage would require legislation in Britain and the 15 other countries of which the Queen is head of state. It is not regarded by constitutional experts as a viable option.

However, the real reason for Baldwin's refusal in 1936 was the belief that the British and Commonwealth public would not toler-

ate a divorced woman as their Queen. Despite a greatly changed attitude to divorce, the position of the present Prince of Wales appears the same. No Prime Minister would give the necessary approval without being certain that the country at large supported the match.

Charles will look in vain among his distant cousins on European thrones for a suitable precedent, although the Danes had quite a fad for turning mistresses into queens during the 18th and 19th centuries. Frederik IV's wife had been dead but two weeks in 1721 when he married his mistress, Countess Anna Sophie von Reventlow, and made her Queen Anna. David Williamson, Editor of *Debut's Peerage*, said the Danes did not approve. "It caused a great fuss because Frederik had

previously had children by her. He just about got away with it in the 18th century, but I don't imagine you would get away with it now."

Frederik VII, already twice married and divorced when he came to the throne in 1848, entered a morganatic marriage two years later with his long-standing mistress, Louise Rasmussen. This time the Danes objected to having the woman as Queen on the ground that she, like Mrs Parker Bowles, was a divorcee.

One other famous European royal marriage was morganatic — the word is from the medieval Latin *morganaticum*, morning-gift, a token gift given after consummation representing the husband's only liability. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria contracted such a marriage with Sophie, a mere Bohemian count-

ess, before both fell to an assassin's bullets in Sarajevo in 1914.

Time may soften public attitudes. Lord Blake, the constitutional historian, said there was no reason why the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles should not continue to see each other in private, but that it was too soon after the divorce to consider marriage. "There should be an interval and I would feel it should be at least a year or more for people to get accustomed to the idea," he said.

In the end it is the will of the people, expressed through Prime Minister, Cabinet and MPs, that will decide the Prince's marital future. He will at all costs wish to avoid a repetition of 1936.

Ring of confidence, page 13
Magnus Linklater, page 14
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Camilla: polls against her

Passengers tell of chaos and fear as hijackers struck

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND ADRIAN LEE

THE hijackers of the Sudan Air flight SUD150 launched their takeover by smashing Pepsi-Cola bottles and using them as weapons to threaten passengers, the freed hostages said yesterday.

Ahmed Abu Bashir, 42, a Sudanese businessman, said: "It was just like a football riot. People were hitting... and fighting with the terrorists but the struggle was over in a few minutes."

Mr Bashir, who was travelling to Jordan with his wife and two children, added: "For half an hour we were absolutely terrified until the plane refuelled in Cyprus."

"They had knives and we thought they wanted to kill people on board. A security man hit one of the captors in the face. One of the others had a knife and he stabbed him. There was shouting and screaming. There were women and children there. They were crying and very frightened."

The hijack began 90 minutes into the flight after the plane entered Egyptian airspace while approaching the Red Sea on route from Khartoum to Amman in Jordan. The seven hijackers, who were in seats throughout the aircraft, moved up together along the two aisles to the middle of the cabin.

Ahmed Ali, a Sudanese passenger, said the hijack began at about 7.30 local time. "They broke bottles of Pepsi-Cola to use as weapons and we struggled with them. My brother stopped the leader of the terrorists. All the people on the aeroplane just kept their eyes on this struggle. There

The Home Office is to cut grants for emergency planning and training by 2 per cent next year (Michael Evans writes). The reduction was disclosed yesterday after a letter to the Association of County Councils. The civil defence grant makes up approximately two-thirds of Essex's £500,000 emergency planning budget. Councillor Nigel Baker, the chairman of Essex County Council's public safety board, criticised the planned cut. "The Standed incident shows that we need emergency planning and need it to work properly. We should be increasing the emergency planning budget, not cutting it."

were three of the kidnappers at the back of the aeroplane and they came forward. They pulled out two bombs — that is what we thought they were."

The chaos intensified as two stewardesses were taken hostage. A security guard was cut on the hand and arm. Passengers seized one of their Iraqi captors but had to free him when another held up what was appeared to be a bomb.

Elaged A-Said, a senior executive with Sudan Airways who was among the 179 passengers, said: "For the first ten minutes people were shouting and crying. Everything was left to God. Everybody on the plane was scared."

After the Airbus 310 had refuelled at Larnaca for its flight to Stansted the atmo-

sphere became calmer save for the aggression of the ringleader.

Mr A-Said, 43, said: "This was a criminal operation carried out by nothing more than criminals. They should be severely punished. You do not have to hijack an airliner to escape from Iraq." He paid tribute to the captain Abdul Hamid Hidir, 51, and crew who reimposed discipline on board and kept the passengers informed.

Over 160 passengers were taken to the Hilton Hotel at Stansted Airport early yesterday after being held for initial debriefing by police at an overspill lounge. They are not expected to be allowed to leave Britain until today, after they have given statements to police.

Language difficulties and the long ordeal suffered by the passengers were said to be making the process a long and slow one, despite the use of sixteen interpreters.

Anti-terrorist officers interviewed the crew, six Sudanese and one Jordanian, yesterday at a hotel in Harlow. Police continued to examine the aircraft, which remained where it had been parked, in a remote part of the airport.

The hijackers and their six female partners were being held at Harlow and Colchester police stations, where questioning began in earnest yesterday morning. Charges were not expected imminently, an Essex Police spokesman said. Most of the hijackers spoke at least some English and were "clearly terrified" at the prospect of being returned to Iraq.



Noel Gallagher in Chicago. A critic said the band did not have a reputation for dynamic stage presence, even with "their lead waxwork Liam"

Oasis brothers find peace an ocean apart

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

HARMONY broke through the sibling rivalry of Oasis yesterday, when Noel Gallagher said that his brother Liam was going through a personal crisis and promised that he would support him, not fight with him.

"That never gets anyone anywhere," said Noel, who is having to stand in as lead singer on the band's American tour after Liam refused to get on the plane. "We have had enough of slapping each other. You have to support people when they are going through a personal crisis."

"I can sing as well as Liam can, but I am no front man and it's going to be hard work. The show must go on, which is a motto at the moment. If he

telephones, I am telling him I expect him to be in the band when we get back, but you never know with Liam."

Noel, the band's songwriter and guitarist, says in an interview with *Select* magazine: "I am the brains behind the band, the quiet, calm one. Liam's the nutcase. It's a good job he's the singer and not me."

Explanations for Liam's late refusal to board the plane have ranged from a throat infection to housing problems with his fiancée, the actress Patsy Kensit, following the sale of their property in St John's Wood, north London.

His mother said the couple would fly to America tomorrow to join the rest of the band.



Liam in London signals to the press from home

Peggy Gallagher told the *Manchester Evening News* that Liam had telephoned her at home in the city's Burnage district to tell her not to worry. She said: "Liam called to tell

me there is not a problem with the band. He says he and Patsy will be flying out on Friday. He just has a few things he has to sort out first."

Thousands of fans cheered Noel's singing as he filled in for his absent brother at the start of the tour, but the 14,000-capacity Rosemont Horizon in the Chicago suburbs was two-thirds full for Tuesday night's concert. Fans had been offered their money back.

Rick Rager, a rock critic for the *Chicago Tribune*, said: "I thought that Noel filled in pretty well. The sound was not dramatically different. The fans did not seem to notice. In some of the high parts, like *Live for Ever*, his voice kind of cracked. He could not quite make the high parts. Oasis

has, here, a reputation for not a very dynamic stage presence. They are reminiscent of Madame Tussaud's at times, and that's when their lead waxwork Liam Gallagher is with the band."

Mr Rager said the band simply rehearsed its recordings, without adding much zest in a live performance that lasted 90 minutes. In his opinion, the Screaming Trees, who were the support band, stole the show. A concert organiser described the crowd as "festive and happy".

Oasis's next stop on tour is in Auburn Hills, Michigan, on Friday. After that, the tour moves to Toronto, Massachusetts, New York, Georgia, and North Carolina before ending in Tampa, Florida, on September 18.

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Expelled pupil takes school to High Court

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PUPIL expelled from school for letting down his teacher's car tyres won the right to challenge the decision in the High Court yesterday.

In a rare move, Martyn Ashworth, 15, was given leave for judicial review on the ground that expulsion may have been too high a price to pay for the April Fool's Day prank. The boy brought the case because he wants to return to Birches Head High School, Stoke-on-Trent, to take his GCSEs next summer.

He was the only one of three pupils involved in the incident to be banned from the school, even though he was not the one who deflated the tyre. The two other boys received temporary exclusions.

An appeal committee set up by Staffordshire County Council to consider the case took into account the boy's poor disciplinary record and backed the school's decision to expel him. Ian Wise, representing Carol Ashworth, the boy's mother, who formally launched the proceedings, claimed in a preliminary High Court hearing yesterday that the penalty was excessive.

Mr Wise said: "The correct approach was whether the incident alleged was serious enough to justify exclusion. That was not the approach adopted. It was considered in the background of the previous incidents."

James Findlay, representing Staffordshire County Council, said the boy had admitted his part in the incident. "The committee did not accept the hearsay evidence alone; they

had evidence from the boy that he was involved."

Mr Findlay added: "Leming down the tyre was considered a serious incident. It might be regarded by some as a prank, but by others as a serious safety issue." The boy's previous behaviour had led to five temporary exclusions and visits to the "quiet room" for class disruption, said Mr Findlay.

Mr Justice Poplewell granted a judicial review hearing over the penalty but not on the use of hearsay evidence. He refused to grant an injunction ordering the boy's return to school pending the outcome of the case. However, it will be heard at the earliest opportunity because term starts next week.

The Department for Education and Employment said last night that there had been three judicial reviews brought on behalf of expelled pupils in recent years, but could not say what the outcomes had been. "Parents have been promised that a school will open next Tuesday, despite a strike threat by teachers refusing to teach a disruptive pupil, its governors have said. The assurance came from Nottinghamshire's director of education Rob Valentine, according to Eileen Bennett, chair of governors at Manton Junior School, Worksop, Nottinghamshire."

But Nottinghamshire County Council refused to comment on contingency plans to break the threatened strike and ensure that school starts as usual next week for Manton Junior's 190 children.

Bad gene corrected in cancer milestone

By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENTISTS have reduced the size of tumours in some cancer patients in what is being hailed as a milestone in research.

Up to half of all cancers may be caused by defects in a gene called p53, which prevents cells from multiplying uncontrollably. A team at the University of Texas has for the first time introduced correctly functioning copies of p53 into nine men with lung cancer.

The team reports in *Nature Medicine* that in three patients the tumours shrank, while in another three they stabilised. Two of the patients survived for 22 weeks after the treatment, which had no serious side-effects, although all nine subsequently died. "These patients had incurable, widely spread disease," said Jack Roth, leader of the team from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas. "As with any first clinical trial, our goal was to see if our proposed process worked and if it would be as safe in humans as we had observed in earlier animal studies."

Mike Fried, who works on p53 at the laboratories of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, said: "It looks interesting, but all the patients died." He added that for the treatment to work, the gene would have to be introduced into every tumour cell. "If you got even 90 per cent of them, it wouldn't be enough. The ones that were left would soon restore the tumour to its original size."

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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

GENE GENIE
Ginny Dougary
meets Richard
Dawkins,
revolutionary
biologist, in the
Magazine

TRAVEL
Paradise islands,
surviving Paris
with children,
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Weekend

PLUS
Vision, the seven-
day guide to TV
and radio

'This is all sour grapes. There are many leading architects who are not registered'

Winner of design award fined for being unqualified

By Robin Young

THE winner of the BBC Design Award for architecture was fined £2,000 yesterday because she was not registered as an architect.

Gabrielle Bramante was prosecuted by the Architects Registration Council at the instigation of a Citizens Advice Bureau for which she had raised £200,000 to enable her winning design to be built. The action was brought under the 1938 Architects Registration Act because letters to the Kingston CAB in Chessington, southwest London, from her firm, Bramante Architects of Teddington, carried the word "architect".

The case is the latest clash of wills between Mrs Bramante and the CAB, which now occupies her Japanese-influenced building. Mrs Bramante was so determined that her design should not be compromised in any way that on the night before it was opened by the Princess Royal, she and two friends removed two IS ft



Frank Lloyd Wright, left, and Le Corbusier. Mrs Bramante said they were never formally registered

conifers planted in front of it and substituted the silver birches her design had originally stipulated.

The CAB is now preventing the building from being considered for the Stirling Prize, Britain's top architectural award, on the ground that it has had too many judges and architectural students viewing the building and distracting staff from their work. The building has won three other

architectural prizes. Keith Barker, representing the registration council, told Richmond magistrates yesterday that there was no record of Mrs Bramante being a fully qualified architect. She was fined £1,000 on each of two counts of misrepresentation and was ordered to pay £700 costs.

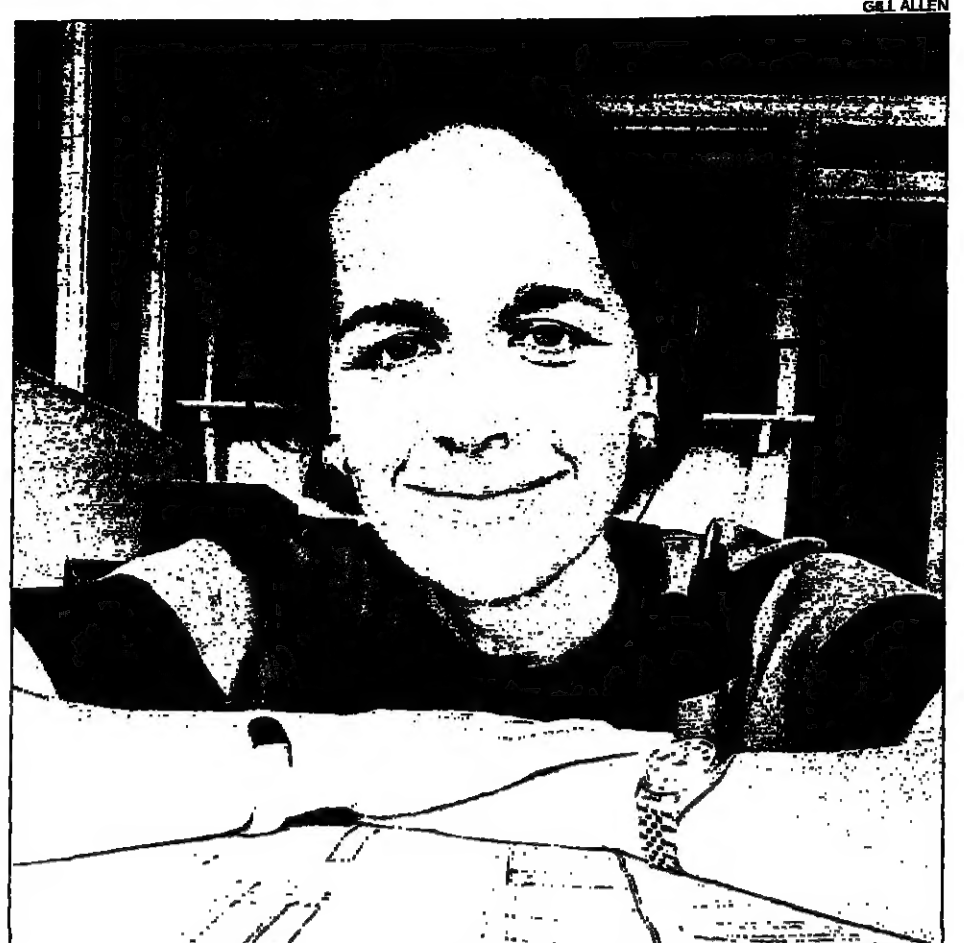
Mrs Bramante, who shares her surname with an earlier architect who designed St Paul's in Rome, but says the

connection is only through marriage, said yesterday that she had had no chance to defend herself because she was unaware of the hearing.

"This is all a vindictive case of sour grapes. There are many leading architects who are not registered with any council. Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and Tadao Ando, the most famous Japanese architect, were never formally registered."

Of her own case, she said: "I took a degree at Kingston University, then went to Japan to study and won a scholarship to Harvard for the masters in architecture course in 1986. I had written to the registration council to ask them to equate my foreign qualifications and academic record to qualification in this country."

Mrs Bramante's other buildings include toilets for St George's Hospital in Tooting, south London, refurbishments for Look Ahead Housing Association and work on Forte hotels in Germany.



Bramante said she had asked to be registered on the basis of her studies abroad

Critic of tobacco cash for medical study sent home

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A SENIOR official of the Medical Research Council has been suspended for criticising its acceptance of money from the tobacco industry.

Mary Rice, the council's head of public communications, was sent home after being quoted as saying that she did not think the £147,000 grant from BAT Industries should have been accepted. "I didn't think it could be justified," she told *The Sunday Times*. "I thought it would be seriously damaging to the council's reputation as an impartial source of scientific knowledge. I put this in writing but was overruled."

BAT gave the money for a study at the council's neurochemical pathology unit in Newcastle upon Tyne to investigate whether smoking tobacco could delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease. The council defended the grant by saying that it could lead to new approaches to treating age-related disorders.

Jane Lee, director of corporate affairs at the council, said there had been "a difference of view" between Ms Rice and the council. "We asked her to take a period off while we reflected further," she said.

The council's position is that it is impossible to exclude

sources of revenue because of the business they are in. "You can't have a list of companies you can't deal with," Ms Lee said. The council laid down clear conditions for the acceptance of grants. "We would never agree to a grant unless we had complete discretion to publish the results of the research, for example," she said.

In a statement, the council said that the BAT funding was subject to strict conditions. The agreement makes it clear that the sum provided, £49,000 a year for three years, is a donation and that the council has absolute control over the research and publication of results.

It also stipulates that BAT may not make any reference to the findings of the research without the written consent of the council, and "it is most unlikely that the MRC would consent to any such request".

Ms Rice was unavailable for comment yesterday. Her position is likely to find support in the council, which was responsible for the original research in the 1950s into the health effects of smoking.

The council's scientists have been among those who have called for a ban on tobacco advertising.

Spirited broker's premium vision

HOUSEHOLDERS whose worst nightmares extend beyond fire and theft were invited yesterday to take out insurance against attack by evil spirits.

The policy may be just the thing to bring peace of mind after an episode of the *X-Files*. It may also be perfect to bring a little extra publicity for the broker Simon Burgess, who recently began offering cover against alien abduction.

Mr Burgess admitted that customers of his City firm GRIP would need to look beyond just the spirit of the policy. In exchange for a £25 premium, they will receive £100,000 only if actually attacked by an apparition, or £1 million if a woman is impregnated by a poltergeist. The small-print warns that run of the mill crockery-smashing and hellish odours are not covered.

He refused to be drawn on whether he believed in ghosts, but said: "Obviously we would have independent

assessors before a £100,000 payout is made. We might rely on video or sound recordings."

"While we were issuing cover against alien abduction we found people wanted insurance against poltergeists. We would expect the number of policies to run into the thousands."

One of the first customers to approach him, Joe Tagliarini, 23, a courier from Enfield, north London, said he had seen the ghost of a dead child when he was young and hoped an insurance certificate would act as "a good luck charm".

He admitted that his girlfriend, Carol, had not thought much of his plan. "When I told her I was going to spend £25 on the insurance she was pretty sceptical, but I think she sees the method in my madness. I don't think that validating the claims will be a problem. If the assessors see the kind of things that I have seen, they would pay up straight away."

AN OPEN INVITATION TO MICHAEL MEACHER MP AND THE LABOUR PARTY FROM NORTH WEST WATER.

In a recent report to the media, Mr Michael Meacher MP pours more than scorn over the water industry.

He claims that bathing off certain popular beaches is equivalent to "swimming in raw sewage", thanks to the water companies dumping it straight into the sea.

North West Water, according to his report, are the worst offenders.

However, he neglects to point out that his report is based largely on some very old facts and figures.

The effect of this inaccurate report is to damage the development of tourism - a vital part of the North West economy - and with it the creation of new jobs.

To bring the Shadow Environmental Protection Secretary up to date, and avert any further damage to North West tourism, here are some 1996 facts and figures for him to digest before his next public outpouring.

FACT: Launched in 1994, North West Water's £500 million Sea Change initiative is not only a major feat of British engineering, it's also one of Europe's largest ever environmental clean up operations.

FACT: Sea Change brings to an end the centuries old daily practice of dumping raw sewage directly into the sea.

FACT: 30 major projects have been undertaken along the North West coastline (from the Scottish border down to Merseyside), and this massive investment programme is now virtually complete.

FACT: The work has included 12 new or upgraded wastewater treatment plants, over 20 kilometres of new wastewater super-tunnels, 35 new pumping stations, and 9 new long sea outfalls.

FACT: Wastewater is now being treated using the latest biological methods to meet stringent legal and regulatory standards before it is safely released into deep water as far as three miles out to sea.

FACT: Sea Change is just part of a £2 billion environmental programme North West Water is carrying out to improve the quality of the region's rivers and bathing waters.

If misinformation is to be the basis of Mr Meacher's future reports to voters there is little we, or anyone else, can do to stop him.

However, we believe the public deserve something better - the truth.

Truth based on today's facts, today's figures, and what the heck, actual first-hand knowledge.

That's why we're extending an invitation to you, Mr Meacher and your colleagues.

Please, come and see what has been achieved. Visit our treatment plants. Talk to local communities. Talk to our people. See for yourself how we're helping to clean up the environment and aid the economic revival of this region.

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Former satirist behind top school assembly tunes

Folk singer strikes chord with young worshippers

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A FOLK singer aged 81 scored his biggest chart hit yesterday when his songs filled three of the top six places in the first listing of the most popular songs in school assemblies.

A survey of 520 schools showed that Sydney Carter's *One More Step* was the copyright work most commonly requested for use in collective worship. One of his other hits in the top 20, produced by Christian Copyright Licensing, was *Lord of the Dance*, whose image of Christ dancing once upset traditionalists.

Long-established children's hymns such as *All Things Bright and Beautiful* are no longer covered by copyright, so do not appear in the list. But Andrea Shearn, who conducted the research, said that modern songs were increasingly popular at primary schools, often at the expense of older hymns.

More than 7,000 schools

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOP 10

- 1 *One more step*..... Sydney Carter
- 2 *Light up the fire*..... Sue McCellan, Keith Rycroft, John Paculabo
- 3 *Who put the colours in the rainbow?*..... Paul Booth
- 4 *Think of a world without any flowers*..... Doreen Newport
- 5 *Lord of the dance*..... Sydney Carter
- 6 *When I needed a neighbour*..... Sydney Carter
- 7 *Thank you, Lord, for this fine day*..... Diane Davis Andrew, Christian O'Connell
- 8 *Water of life*..... Christian Strover
- 9 *Peace perfect peace*..... Kevin Mayhew
- 10 *Shine Jesus shine*..... Graham Kendrick

© Christian Copyright Licensing Ltd 1996

pay an average of £90 a year to reproduce the words of 120,000 hymns and songs for collective worship. Most of the hit works come from the BBC's *Common Praise* book, which has sold more than 3 million copies since 1978.

Geoff Marshall Taylor, who edits the book and has one of his own songs in the top 20, said: "Over the past 20 years, primary schools have developed their own repertoire of

singing, which overlaps with the churches'. Many schools like to have a mixture of modern works and older hymns."

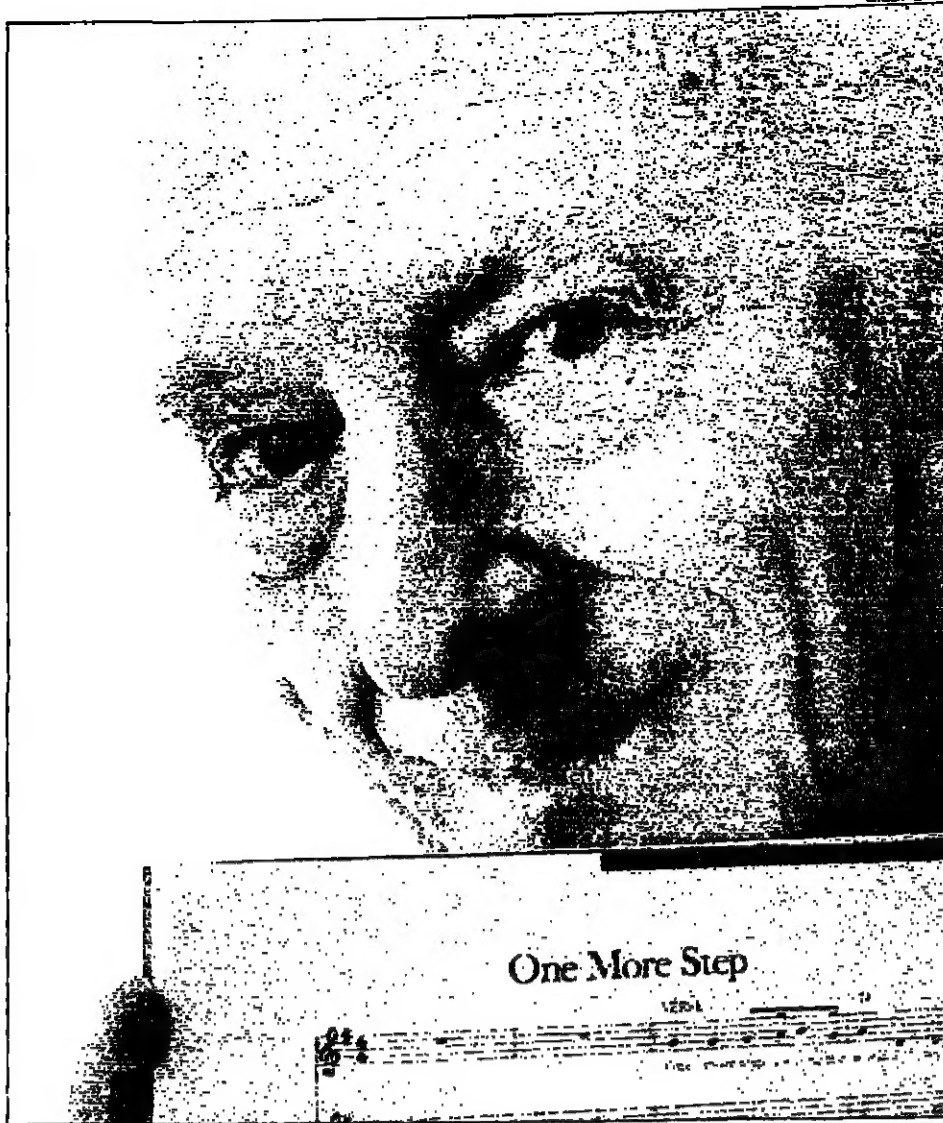
Mr Carter said he thought his songs were popular with teachers because they were "not so doctrinal" as some religious works. "They are songs which can be sung in a Christian context, but they all had to mean something to me because I was often on the

edge of not believing." Now mainly a prose writer, Mr Carter wrote his most popular songs in the 1960s and 1970s. "The songs certainly have not made my fortune, but I am still grateful for the royalties when they come in."

He was a friend of Malcolm Muggeridge, a lyricist for Donald Swann and a writer for the satirical television show *That Was The Week That Was*.

He said he was pleased at the popularity of his songs for collective worship. "There are obvious problems with so many different denominations in schools today, but I had collective worship at school and I do not think it is a bad thing."

A sharp increase in the number of copyright licences issued in the past year suggests that primary schools at least are taking note of the Government's insistence that they observe the law on daily collective worship. Most of the top 20 are songs mainly for younger children.

Front runner: Sydney Carter with *One More Step*, the song sung most in schools

Toy store prosecuted over child's slide death

By PAUL WILKINSON

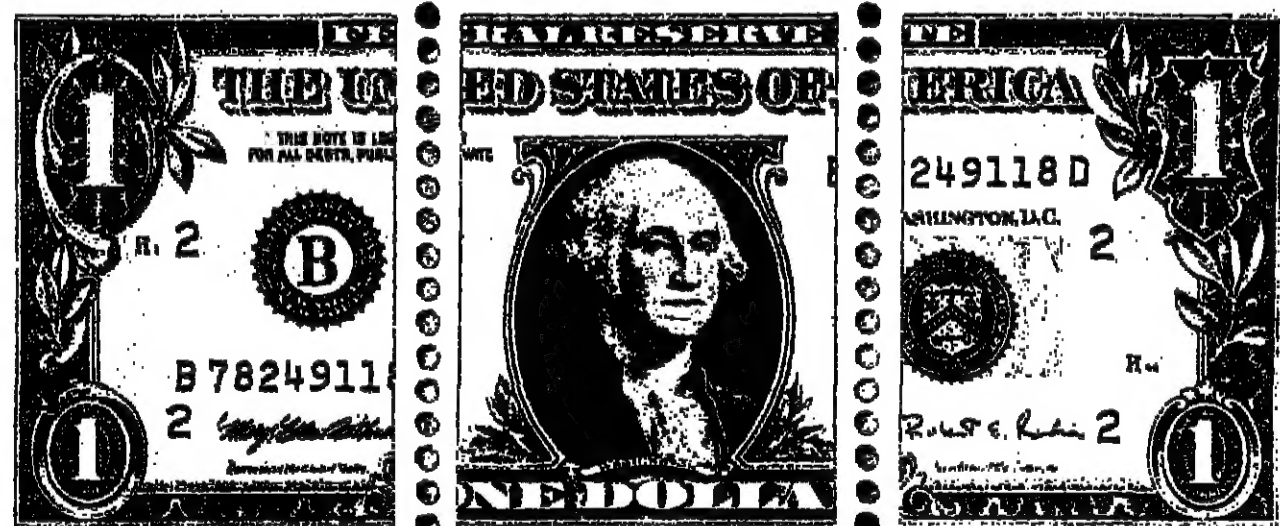
A HIGH street toy chain is to be prosecuted for an alleged breach of safety requirements after the death of a three-year-old girl on a children's slide.

The decision by trading standards officers to take the Early Learning Centre to court is the fulfilment of a campaign by the mother of the girl, who choked to death last April. Kirsty Docking, 24, found her daughter Amy hanging from a supporting strut of the slide in the garden of her home in Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne. An inquest has yet to be held.

More than 200,000 of the slides had been sold by the time of the accident and the model was withdrawn and modified. It went back on sale on May 18.

John Menzies, the parent company of the Early Learning Centre, can choose to have the case heard by magistrates or before a jury at a Crown Court. If found guilty it could be fined up to £5,000. The toy store, based in Swindon, denies responsibility.

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BSE 'will end by 2001 with or without cull'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BSE was in rapid decline and was expected to peter out by 2001, but slaughtering millions of cows would not make it go away much more quickly, a study has concluded.

Without culling, another 6,950 cases of "mad cow" disease were to be expected, to add to the 161,412 cases since the disease appeared ten years ago. But no policy short of large-scale slaughter could have a dramatic impact on the numbers.

The study, carried out by a team led by Roy Anderson of Oxford University, takes into account the recent discovery of a low level of maternal transmission of the disease from cow to calf.

Using all that is known about how the disease originated, how it is transmitted and the susceptibility of cows of different ages, the team produced a mathematical model that fits the observed trends in the disease.

This showed that about 446,000 infected animals entered the human food chain before cow brains and spinal cords were banned in 1989. Between then and the end of 1995, another 283,000 infected cows had been eaten, the team says in *Nature*.

The total number of cows infected by the end of 1995 was estimated to have been 903,000. This is much higher than the number of cases diagnosed, because most of

the animals were slaughtered before the disease became apparent.

The team has produced estimates of the number of cases that would be prevented by various slaughter policies. Slaughtering all cattle, a total of 9,360,000, would prevent all 6,950 cases that were expected to emerge before the epidemic petered out in 2001, but at enormous cost. A more selective cull, targeting herds that had a case of BSE between the beginning of 1991 and the end of 1995, would involve killing 2,870,000 cows and would prevent 6,300 cases. All the more modest options, involving culling up to hundreds of thousands of cows, would reduce the number of cases much less.

The most efficient, measured in terms of the number of cattle killed per case prevented, would be a combination of aiming at infected herds and the calves of infected mothers. Such a policy could reduce the number of cases by 1,490, at a cost of 44,000 cattle slaughtered — or 30 cattle culled per case prevented.

David Skeggs, of the University of Otago, says in the journal that the arcane mathematics should not blind anyone to the limitations of the data. The model predicts 221 cases in the year 2000, but he points out that that was merely the most likely number in a range from 128 to 3,660 cases.



Moving up: the white admiral, left, and painted lady

Butterflies driven north by warming

By NICK NUTTALL

COLONIES of a common butterfly called Edith's checkerspot were advancing towards the Arctic Circle in search of cooler climates because of global warming.

American researchers said that the finding was the first confirmation of a predicted change in the range and distribution of sensitive species because of climate change.

The study of the effect of global warming on the Edith's checkerspot, which lives from Mexico to Canada, is the first of a single species over its geographical range. Dorian Moss, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Monks Wood, Cambridge, said yesterday that the results added weight to findings in Britain.

A 20-year survey of British butterflies found that many common species were advancing north. White admirals had moved as far north as Lincolnshire and the gatekeeper butterfly had been seen in Cumbria and Scot-

land. Predictions of global warming indicated that butterflies may also leave low-lying areas for the cooler higher altitudes.

Assessing British butterflies across their range is difficult because historical information from North Africa and Europe, where some spend the winter, is often scanty. British researchers suspect that milder winters in North African breeding areas may be the reason for the current influx of painted lady butterflies.

The American research, published in *Nature*, was carried out by Camille Parmesan of the University of Santa Barbara. She found that populations of Edith's checkerspot in Mexico were now four times more likely to be extinct than those in Canada: "Sites where previously recorded populations still existed were on average 200 miles further north [400 miles] than sites where the populations were extinct."

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Belgians fear paedophiles with power helped to protect killers

AS THE horrible deeds of Marc Dutroux have been exposed over the past two weeks, a chilling question has lingered in the minds of Belgians: how far did his network of child abduction and torture reach?

"These are testing moments for a society," *La Libre Belgique* said yesterday. "Brutally, it has lost contact with the references that serve in normal times."

The words testify to the sense of trauma and shame that has swept Belgium, casting a pall over the late summer and the start of the new school year. The arrest of nine other people, including a police inspector, and the seizure of hundreds of videotapes featuring the abuse of children have made clear that, unlike Frederick and Rose-

mary West in Britain, Dutroux was not an isolated madman with a compliant wife.

Echoing the talk of cafés and family meal tables, the media have speculated that paedophiles with power may have been behind the apparent immunity enjoyed by Dutroux as he cruised Belgium picking up girls, despite a shelf of police reports of his suspicious activities. He was finally arrested only after a boy remembered the number plate of his van near the

scene of an abduction. The lapses included failure to follow up on information that the unemployed and convicted child-rapist had been offering money for the abduction of girls and had built cellars in his houses around Charleroi. One image haunts the country: that of policemen searching Dutroux's cellar last winter, well before the girls died of starvation in March.

The officers believed his explanation that the children they heard were his own three offspring. At

about the same time, another team of police had Dutroux under surveillance, but the investigating judge in the case of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo insists that its report never reached her.

The atmosphere of suspicion has thickened with the much criticised failure of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, to make any statement on the scandal. His aides said he wants to keep politics out of the investigation and the Government is to announce new measures against paedophiles tomorrow.

But parallels are being drawn, with no apparent evidence, to murky political-criminal affairs of recent years, notably the still unsolved murder of André Coels, a senior politician, in 1991. Belgium's fractured political system, coal-

tions of French and Dutch-speaking parties, has suffered a string of unresolved scandals involving money and violence. Among them was the affair which last year brought down Willy Claes, the chief of Nato and a former government minister.

Stefaan De Clerck, the Justice Minister, has promised to uncover the whole of the paedophile affair and restore his country's name. He insists that Michel Bourlet, the chief prosecutor, is not subject to any pressure. Mr Bourlet has promised to prosecute every adult he can identify on the videotapes with children.

Two weeks of furious media investigation and relative candour by prosecutors have offered an outline of the operations of

Dutroux, his wife Michelle, and the handful of petty criminals that he commanded. Their main protection appears to have come from Georges Zicot, 45, an inspector with the equivalent of the CID in Charleroi. According to prosecutors, he became involved in dealing in stolen vehicles and helped to obtain vans for Dutroux. He is also said to have interrogated Dutroux when he was a suspect in the death of Alexandra Scanlon, 14, last year. No charges were brought.

The consensus among those close to the investigation is that Dutroux, who was freed after serving six years of a 13-year sentence for child rape, had protection as an informer for Zicot and the local police. This may have explained their failure to prosecute him for briefly abducting

three adolescents early this year in a quarrel over stolen cars. Dutroux says he killed Bernard Weinstein, one of his accomplices in that affair, for informing on him. His body was found last week.

While six of the accused are small local criminals, the link to a wider operation is suggested by the arrest of Michel Nihoul, a Brussels estate agent on the prestigious Avenue Louise. Previously convicted of fraud involving a false charity, he faces charges of participating in a paedophile network.

But Michel Maréchal, deputy editor of *La Dernière Heure*, said he believed the speculation about the involvement of high-placed officials would evaporate.

Leading article, page 15

European widows exploit Sri Lanka teenagers for sex

FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY IN STOCKHOLM

WEALTHY widows from Europe are adopting teenage boys in Sri Lanka for sex by showering them with expensive gifts, according to a human rights organisation.

The women, in their fifties and sixties, are known as "godmothers" to the boys' unsuspecting families, who see them as godsend to alleviate their poverty.

The growing problem in a country where 20,000 boys are prostitutes, mainly working for homosexuals, was highlighted as the 130 nations represented here at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children agreed on an eight-page declaration.

"It is difficult to do anything about it when it is a boy with a wealthy woman," Lakshman Jayakody, a Sri Lankan Cabinet minister, said yesterday. "They get the boys and give them everything."

Indra Nilawera, director of the Samurdhi Women's Organisation in Sri Lanka, said one destination favoured by European widows was Hikkaduwa, a southern beach

resort where sex tourists stay with local families for about £2 a night. The women befriend boys aged between 16 and 19 hawking shells or ornaments and stay in the teenagers' homes, with their parents' trust, and ask if their sons could sleep in the same room.

"In our society it is accepted that grandparents sleep with their grandchildren and nothing happens," said Ms Nilawera. "[The parents] are mainly illiterate and are ignorant of these happenings."

The boys are rewarded with gifts of watches, fine clothes, radios and televisions while the women are staying with the families — usually for about three months during the northern winter. On their return, the widows send monthly cheques to the boys and, eventually, an air ticket to join them in Europe — often Germany and France.

After six months in Europe, the boys return, adapting Western ways. The widows buy land in the boys' names and build pleasant homes for their Sri Lankan lovers, with a home costing as little as

£8,000. They then bring their widowed friends during the holidays and the boys are expected to recruit sexual partners for them, too. "These rich women have no intention of getting married. They are sexually exploiting poor children," Ms Nilawera said.

The congress adopted an eight-page declaration calling on nations to combat child pornography, the trafficking of children for sex and sexual tourism. Some Third World charities, however, complained that nothing was being done to tackle home-grown sexual exploitation, such as marriages involving girls as young as ten.

Many Asians and Africans said their governments were happy to sign a declaration blaming foreign tourists for child-sex problems and believed the Western delegates were using the conference to ease their consciences.

Ruby Noble, who works for Save the Children in Bangladesh, said: "The concept of child marriage is a very important form of exploitation being excluded."



Three members of a German-based group Terre des Hommes protest at the sexual exploitation of children outside the Stockholm conference centre where 1,000 delegates are attending a five-day meeting on the subject

Actor tells of his 'pervert' encounter

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

ROGER MOORE described yesterday his encounter with a child molester when he was eight years old and called for paedophiles to be given life sentences on their second offence.

The actor, who is also a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund, said he hoped British sex tourists who preyed on children in developing countries would be sent back to serve harsh prison terms in Third World jails. Mr Moore,

attending the Stockholm congress, also recounted his close escape from a paedophile.

"My friend Reg and I were in the Cubes. We had a tent and went up to Wimbledon Common and some dirty old rain-coated pervert came into our tent and started making a couple of remarks. I didn't even understand. I went outside and he came out after a few minutes. He then made a lewd suggestion. Mr Moore said, but 'Reg and I went fishing for tiddlers in the pond. When we came back our sandwiches were gone.'"

He said he did not tell his mother until he was 16. "Maybe I was afraid my mother wouldn't let us go camping again. What I am saying is that there is a guilt which children always have. They in some way feel responsible."

As Unicef envoy, Mr Moore said he met a nun in Brazil who introduced him to a 12-year-old girl who turned to prostitution after being raped when she was eight. "The nun said it was strange that you can get more attention about the rainforest than you can about the children."



Moore: confronted by paedophile as a boy

Lawyer refuses to defend Dutroux

BY CHARLES BRENNER

THE lawyer of Marc Dutroux, the confessed paedophile of Charleroi, has refused on moral grounds to represent him.

"I have a little girl of Julie and Melissa's age, who has been really disturbed by these events, and I do not think she could have understood that her father was defending this man," Didier de Quevy said, referring to the two girls found dead at one of Dutroux's houses. Several other lawyers have refused to take the case.

Belgian police yesterday dug deeper in the grounds of one of Dutroux's houses, but said it could take days to find whether they contained the bodies of two teenagers they suspect are buried there.

However, the police did uncover a small underground corridor under one of the floors of the house, which had been inhabited by Dutroux's late accomplice, Bernard Weinstein.

Dutroux, who has admitted allowing two eight-year-olds to starve to death, told prosecutors he had buried more victims in the grounds of the house at Jumet, near Charleroi. Heavy rain forced a halt to the digging last night.

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Aug 31

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Chirac faces grim task as franc falls and strikes loom

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC returned to work yesterday after his summer holiday to be greeted by a sliding franc, depressed voters, a "gloomy" Cabinet and mounting threats of industrial action.

The franc lost ground again, wiping out the entire gain made since the drop in interest rates earlier this month, amid increasing doubts that France will be able to meet the criteria for European monetary union.

At the first Cabinet meeting of the autumn yesterday, M Chirac gave his ministers a stern pep talk, telling them to fight back against the general gloom. "According to com-

mentators, the Government's return to work has been marked by depression. And this is true," the President said.

Nearly 80 per cent of voters expect a repeat of last winter's devastating strikes and despite M Chirac's optimistic declaration that "the worst is over" most political analysts say the worst is probably yet to come. Unions leaders are gearing up for rising unemployment and anger over planned budget cuts and civil service job losses.

Louis Vianney, head of the powerful CGT union, attacked

"the forced march to monetary union" and gave a warning of impending unrest. "France is literally suffocating under the dogma of one-track thinking," he said.

M Chirac has insisted that France will not waver from the goal of a single currency. "We will stick to our European commitments, not out of pleasure, but because it is in the interests of France," he said, in the knowledge that any hint of compromise will further rattle the markets.

Even if Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, pushes his austerity budget through parliament, many economists say that in the sour economic climate this will not be enough to meet the target of cutting the deficit to 3 per cent of GDP by next year to qualify for EMU.

The Government has pledged to cut taxes from next year while making savings of at least Fr60 billion (£8 billion). Meanwhile the social security deficit is set to exceed Fr50 billion by the end of the year, despite government predictions last year that the debt would be just Fr17 billion.

Apart from its economic headaches, the Government is still embroiled in a controversy over the violent eviction of African immigrants from a Paris church, while the latest upsurge of separatist violence in Corsica is a stark indication that the summer's fragile truce has finally disintegrated.

At least 7,000 civil service jobs are likely to be lost in the latest plans to cut spending. On Tuesday, teaching unions warned of probable strikes in late September or early October in protest at the expected 2,300 job losses in the education sector, the first such cuts for 15 years.

The Force Ouvrière union, which spearheaded last year's industrial unrest alongside the CGT, has called for a protest march on September 21, noting that "all the ingredients are there for an explosion".



Two Chechens watch as a Russian military convoy of more than 200 armoured vehicles pulls out of Grozny as a ceasefire takes hold in the Chechen capital. Soldiers in another column cheered as they drove past. "We are going back to Russia," one said. In Grozny, Russians and Chechen fighters said they hoped for a lasting peace

Granada's Moorish quarter left to rot

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE Spanish city of Granada has received a severe warning from Unesco for allowing the world-renowned Moorish quarter of Albaicin to grow "unacceptably dilapidated".

Expressing his dismay on a recent visit to the Andalusian city, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, the secretary-general of Unesco, threatened to revoke Albaicin's status as a Unesco World Heritage Site if

"urgent measures" were not taken to check the district's deterioration.

Albaicin, from the Arabic *rabad al bayazin* or "Falconers' Quarter", was made a World Heritage Site in 1994.

The quarter is treasured by historians, town planners and Arabists as the largest extant Moorish "urbanisation" in Spain. Built in the 11th century, its narrow streets and cramped houses can still bring the city's Arab past to life.

Yet the past, literally, has begun to crumble. Now in need of much more than

just a lick of paint, unrepaired buildings scar the quarter, as do dumps of festering refuse and satellite dishes.

The regional Government and the Granada town council are now blaming each other for Albaicin's sorry state. Conservationists, however, blame both the regional Government and the town council for "shirking their responsibility completely". They point to the fact that virtually no effort has been made to use the new World Heritage Site status as "a flag to wave before potential benefactors".

Paris society's hair salon returns to its roots

BY BEN MACINTYRE



Dalí had moustache shaped at Paris salon

THE most celebrated hair-dressing salon in Paris will reopen next week after a nine-month closure that has left many of France's most fashionable people tearing their hair out.

Since Carita, on the Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, opened 50 years ago, on a site once occupied by Louis XVI's wig-maker, just about everyone who was anyone in French society has come here for *la coupe*, *le shampooing* or

le brushing. But last December the owners announced the salon was closing and would be "restyleed".

Carita reached a peak, or quill, of fame in the 1960s when the likes of Brigitte Bardot, Ursula Andress, Jeanne Moreau and Catherine Deneuve put their beehives in the hands of its experts.

The clientèle was not limited to famous Frenchwomen: Salvador Dalí came on a regular basis to have his moustache repointed, and in 1958 Marlon Brando popped in for a dye job

to play the part of a German officer in *The Young Lions*.

But the salon became a victim of its own success. Staff were paid a percentage of the profits but many became so well-known that they could quadruple their salaries by freelancing outside working hours. "Their earnings reached such a level that we were losing money every time a client walked through the doors," France Kessler, a spokesman for the salon, said.

Last year the new owners, the Japanese cosmetic com-

pany Shiseido, dismissed the entire staff of 85, and the salon was closed for a financial short-back-and-sides.

Carita began to lose its sheen after the deaths of its founders, Maria and Rosy Carita, in the early 1980s. "The coiffeurs considered themselves divas of the curling tongs, greater stars than their clients," *Le Figaro* reported.

Carita's owners have elected to give the place a more youthful appeal, with lower prices, areas for body and face care, and a boutique.

Polish beauty murdered

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WARSAW

THE former Miss Poland, Agnieszka Kotlarska, who went on to become a Versace model, was stabbed to death as she was getting into her car outside her home in Wrocław in southwest Poland.

Ms Kotlarska, 24, had narrowly missed death on July 17 when she cancelled her booking for TWA Flight 800 that exploded in mid-air off Long Island, New York. Ms Kotlarska was stabbed three times in the chest by a man who "claimed he had known (her) for some time and wanted to talk to her", said Stanislaw Stygar, a police spokesman. He could not confirm media reports that the man claimed to have been Ms Kotlarska's former fiancé.

Police later arrested the attacker, whom they identified only as Jerzy L.



Kotlarska: narrowly escaped death in jet

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Saddam son loses control of elite force in family rift

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

INTERNAL family frictions, including the demotion of President Saddam Hussein's favourite son and fears of an intrusive new United Nations mission to Iraq, are causing fresh tensions in Baghdad.

The hijacking of a Sudanese airliner to Britain on Tuesday by seven Iraqis has highlighted the level of dissent Saddam has been trying to crush before the expected arrival next month of hundreds of United Nations staff to implement an oil-for-food deal.

The Iraqi leader was concerned that the intrusive UN teams will publicise the disaffection in Iraq, giving Washington another lever to put pressure on his regime. Western diplomats said.

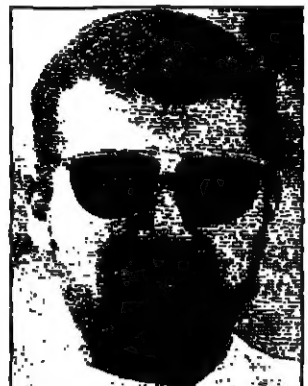
Evidence of further convulsions within Saddam's inner circle comes from reports that he has robbed his eldest son and one-time heir-apparent, Uday, of control of an elite paramilitary unit, the Saddam Fedayin. Its leadership was handed to Saddam's more sober younger son, Qusay, who at the age of 30 is in charge of virtually every security force in Iraq.

Saddam may simply have believed Uday, a heavy drinker with an uncontrollable temper, was too unreliable to

remain in charge of the 30,000-strong force. "But there is also the suspicion Saddam no longer trusted the Fedayin in Uday's hands," said a Western diplomat in Amman. "Was he afraid Uday would one day turn against him?"

The falling out came in March when the Iraqi leader discovered that Uday had diverted sophisticated weapons from the Republican Guards to the Saddam Fedayin without his knowledge, opposition sources said. Under Qusay's control the Fedayin gained the status of regular troops in June.

The Saddam Fedayin —



Uday Hussein: accused of diverting weapons

meaning those willing to sacrifice their lives for the Iraqi leader — was formed two years ago as a "toy army" for Uday, 32, whose father was unwilling to allow him near the real armed forces. It quickly developed into a well-trained force that served as an elite bodyguard for Saddam.

Many of the early recruits were youths from state-run orphanages who owed no loyalty to restive tribes or clans and could easily be moulded into an integral military force owing allegiance only to Saddam. The regime then turned to schools and colleges, assuring those who joined the force top grades in academic examinations.

Finally, it induced retired army officers in an apparent attempt to neutralise potential resentment against the regime and prevent them joining dissident groups.

Iraq last night complained at the number of UN staff needed to monitor the distribution of food and humanitarian supplies to be funded by the sale of \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) worth of oil under the terms of a deal struck in May. The UN has estimated it needs 1,190 people to ensure the supplies go to the people and not the regime.



ABOUT 300 demonstrators march through Hong Kong's business centre yesterday on their way to the Japanese consulate to demand an apology and compensation on behalf of the victims of the

Protest march

Second World War. Yukihiko Ikeda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, who had arrived in the colony for a two-day

official visit, had to be smuggled into the main government building. The protesters had earlier burnt and trampled on effigies of Japanese wartime leaders outside the consulate.

Arafat calls for general strike in Jerusalem 'battle'

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, called on followers yesterday to rise up against Israel in a campaign of civil disobedience, saying that the Jewish state had declared war on his people.

He said the campaign would begin today with the first general strike in two years and intensify tomorrow with an order for all Palestinians to defy the Israeli military closure of the territories and enter Jerusalem in their thousands to pray at the city's holiest Muslim shrine.

His call comes after the demolition of a Palestinian community centre in Jerusalem's Muslim quarter on Tuesday and the announcement that the Israeli Government had approved the expansion of a Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

"What happened concerning violations and crimes from this new Israeli leadership means they are declaring a state of war against the Palestinian people," he told a meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah on the West Bank.

In his strongest attack yet against the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr Arafat said: "Israel has started the war on Jerusalem. They are idiots to have started the Jerusalem battle. There will be no Palestinian state without Jerusalem. Netanyahu should

know he is stupid to have started this battle." Jerusalem is sacred to both Arabs and Jews, but the Prime Minister has said Israel will never relinquish sovereignty.

The Arab League backed Mr Arafat's actions, but Mr Netanyahu gave warning of a "sharp" response if Palestinians carry out their threat to break the law. In a statement he said Israel would regard with severity any Palestinian attempt to escalate tensions and violence.

Mr Arafat called for a general strike "for Jerusalem" today in all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to more than two million Palestinians. He originally proposed a 24-hour strike, but reduced this to four hours after appeals from his Palestinian colleagues.

Up to 25,000 Palestinian labourers, many of them employed on construction sites in Israel, are expected to answer the call to down tools. It will be the first time there has been such a work stoppage since May 1994. The action is likely to harm Palestinians, who depend on Israel for their livelihood, more than Jews.

□ Ankara: Turkey and Israel signed another defence deal yesterday, stepping up co-operation in the military field despite objections by some Arab nations. The deal covers the exchange of technical expertise. (AP)

Father of football star killed for his car

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE father of a South African football star has been murdered by four men who stole his car, given to him by his son. The high-profile crime has left many people in the country shocked and angry.

President Mandela said yesterday that he was saddened by the killing of Eliakim "Pro" Khumalo, who was shot outside his Soweto home. Khumalo's son, Doctor, is the popular striker who helped the South African football team to win the African Nations' Cup last year.

News of the murder led a typically gloomy radio bulletin of murders and other violent crimes. The crime wave has led to 3,000 South Africans leaving the country officially in the first three months of this year and many more unofficially. There is a seven-month waiting list for removal companies.

Statistics show violent crime falling marginally, but many offences are unreported. Observers say that only when crime drops significantly will its insidious effects on the country and economy lessen.

An ambitious plan to tackle crime has been announced by George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, but his officers are resigning in droves and he is being held back by budgetary constraints.

Letters, page 15

Iran seeks handover of exile

Bonn: Iran has asked Germany to extradite Abolhasan Banisadr, its former President, for hijacking. The charge refers to the military aircraft he commandeered when he fled in fear of his life in July 1981.

Mr Banisadr, angered by Tehran last week by accusing top political leaders, in court evidence, of ordering the Berlin assassination of Iranian Kurdish leaders in 1992.

France, where he now lives, has in the past refused to extradite him. (Reuters)

Seoul round-up

Seoul: Thousands of riot police raided 23 universities, arresting 347 pro-Communist activists. Recent student demands for Korean unification led to nine days of violence at Yonsei University. Seoul. (AP)

Bikini clean-up

Majuro: Bulldozers will begin removing topsoil on Bikini atoll in November in an attempt to make it inhabitable more than 50 years after America began using it for atomic weapons tests. (AFP)

Stalin's guests

Moscow: Rich Russians, including pop stars and government officials, are queuing up to stay in Stalin's 11-suite Black Sea holiday mansion, now privately owned, at up to £180 a day per room. (AP)

Peking drive to halt 'inferior' breeding

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA is again launching a eugenics programme designed to improve the quality of the population by selective breeding. According to official sources, the State Council's plan will encourage well-off educated couples in eastern cities to have "better" children and limit the "inferior stock" of the poor and minority peoples.

Such schemes periodically surface and are regularly denounced internationally for their similarities to Nazi policies aimed at achieving a master race. Since the "one child per family" policy began in 1980, the educated urban classes have embraced it eagerly: it is unusual in Peking or Shanghai to see a family with more than one child. In the rural hinterland, families average more than two children, and in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities three children per family are common.

These rural and minority birth rates are said to be increasing, slowing the pace towards the goal of bringing China's population — almost 1.3 billion — to well below one billion. Many Chinese believe poor and minority people are

of inferior stock and the fear is that the breeding of so-called lesser groups will dilute population quality overall.

In 1993, a law entitled Eugenics and Health Protection was promulgated, intended "to put a stop to the prevalence of abnormal births and heighten the standards of the whole population". People with hepatitis, venereal diseases or mental illness would be prohibited from marriage under the regulations. Euthanasia was not mentioned, an official announcement added.

Foreign experts voiced alarm at the concepts of "mental disease", "abnormal" and "defective". Last year fresh regulations were promulgated requiring pregnant women to submit to pre-natal checks to avoid "abnormal" and "inferior" foetuses.

But it is estimated that more than 97 per cent of all abortions after ultra-scans are of female foetuses. Although illegal, this use of ultra-scan is cheaply available to couples in a culture where male gender preference is overwhelming.

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First Lady adopts soft-focus image to blot out shade of Lady Macbeth

WHAT stood out, first of all, was the poise. For someone who had never addressed a convention before, Hillary Clinton proved to be a very cool customer. But perhaps that is the rub. For all the references to "Bill" and "my husband", there was little warmth to the performance. There was not much genuine flavour either: it was somehow ersatz, like canned music or processed cheese.

The themes, though, could not have been safer: health, home and children. There was even a reference to the time their daughter Chelsea had been in hospital having her tonsils out — and "that night Bill and I didn't sleep at all". There could hardly have been a more transparent appeal for the parental sympathy vote.



The speech by the First Lady at the Democratic convention lacked warmth and flavour and appeared to have been crafted to cause the least offence, writes Anthony Howard in Chicago

Mrs Clinton had been introduced — by Tipper Gore, the Vice-President's wife, no less — as "possessing the gift of a great mind and the blessing of a compassionate heart". But there was not, to be blunt, much evidence of either. Instead there was the kind of speech, or homily, that appeared to have been crafted with the aim of causing the least possible offence.

Mrs Clinton's beige, soft-furnishing performance was in sharp contrast to the sort of speech that the First Lady's heroine, Eleanor Roosevelt, would have seen it as her duty to deliver. I was at Los Angeles in 1960 to hear the last speech Mrs Roosevelt gave to a Democratic convention, 25 years after leaving the White House.

The clamour at that time, as it has been here all week, was for unity, but the former First Lady was having none of that. For her a moral principle was at stake —

and, gauche and humbling, she advanced to the microphone to remind the party of the debt of loyalty it still owed to Adlai Stevenson. She was seconding his nomination that had been proposed in one of the best convention speeches ever by Senator Eugene McCarthy. It was all to no avail: the next night the Kennedy juggernaut carried all before it.

Maybe there was just a flicker of that sort of defiance, not so much in what Mrs Clinton said as in what she chose not to say. There was no hint of apology to her husband — or, indeed, to the American people — for the biggest legislative fiasco of the current Administration: the failure to get its healthcare reform Bill reported out of committee even in a Democratic Congress.

It was an enterprise of which she had been put virtually in sole charge and, as an undoubtedly proud woman, she will bear the scars of that humiliation all her life. When last year she visited Canada and Ukraine and was congratulated on the comprehensiveness of her absurdly complex, 1,300-page Bill, she imprudently told her friends of her sense of wry vindication.

There was no reference to this experience in her convention speech. The new Hillary knows better than that. She possesses, after all, one of the highest "antipathy quotients" in modern American politics — a reminder that in Putin and elsewhere not everyone has yet adjusted to the feminist revolution. Because of her previously high exposure, the anxiety all along has

been that she will prove a liability to the Democratic ticket. That is almost certainly nonsense. The American electorate does not vote for First Ladies. But they can certainly either reassure or repel: Barbara Bush did the first and, for the past two years at least, it has looked as if Mrs Clinton, on balance, does the second.

Although here she is simply treading in the footsteps of her immediate Democratic predecessor, Rosalynn Carter — "the steel magnolia" of her husband's ill-fated Administration — she cannot really claim the role of a hapless victim of sexual prejudice.

It was her decision, after all, to make a mysterious killing by trading in commodities while her husband was Governor of Arkansas; her initiative to clear out the staff of the White House travel office and substitute her friends; her Little Rock law firm's involvement in property development that led to the legal quagmire of Whitewater.

Her performance at the podium on the night before her husband's renomination is probably best seen as her effort to blot all that out. This required that she made a speech of pastel shades rather than of primary colours — and to that degree at least, probably at some cost to her own pride, she brought it off. She may not quite have become Caesar's wife, but she certainly did her best to shake off the legend of being Lady Macbeth.

Leading article, page 15.

Mrs Clinton fishes for family vote

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHICAGO

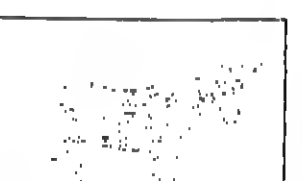
PRESIDENT Clinton was last night arriving in Chicago for his coronation at a Democratic convention newly galvanised by the First Lady and united as rarely before after conciliatory speeches from two top members of the party's vanquished liberal wing.

Hillary Clinton received a four-minute standing ovation when she appeared at the podium on Tuesday evening, and she delighted delegates with an unusually personal speech in which she argued that the Democrats, not the Republicans, were the real party of the family.

At the Republicans' convention in San Diego, Bob Dole, the party's presidential nominee, had mocked her recent book on child-rearing, *It Takes a Village*, claiming she wanted state collectivists to take over the role of parents.

Mrs Clinton responded forcefully and directly, arguing that in raising her own daughter she had learnt that "it takes a family, it takes teachers, it takes clergy, it takes business people, it takes community leaders, it takes those who protect our health and safety, it takes all of us". To deafening cheers she added: "Yes, it takes a village."

Of course, parents were primarily responsible for their children, she said, "but we are all responsible for ensuring that children are raised in a nation that doesn't just talk about 'family values' but acts



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION '96

in ways that value families". For a decade the Republicans have won majority support among families with children by promising tax cuts and less social permissiveness. Mrs Clinton's speech was part of a year-long White House attempt to woo those crucial voters with a pro-family agenda emphasising community and responsibility.

Mr Clinton has deplored Hollywood violence, called for a return to school uniforms

and lobbied for more educational programming. In the past week alone, as he has travelled by train towards Chicago, he has ordered a teenage smoking crackdown, a national child literacy crusade, additional gun controls and, yesterday, an accelerated clean-up of toxic waste sites.

Mrs Clinton listed numerous other ways in which her husband had acted, or intended to act, legislatively to help the family, but failed to mention that he had last week signed a radical Republican welfare reform Bill that could, by the Administration's own estimates, push a million children into poverty.

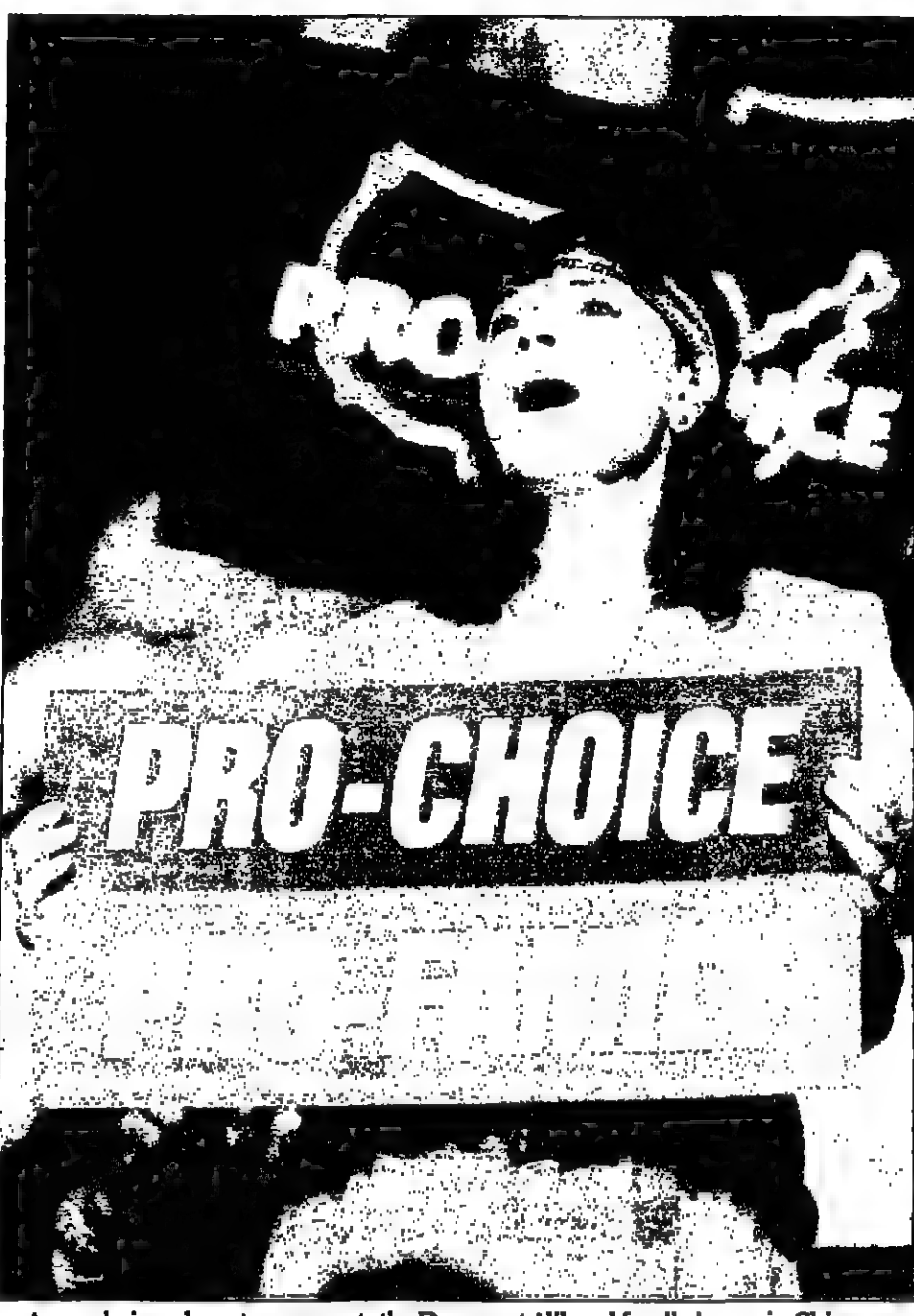
That signing dismayed liberal Democrats and risked major dissent here, but he has got away with it. Jesse Jackson, the civil rights leader, and Mario Cuomo, the former New York Governor, both told the convention they thought the President was wrong, but noted his pledge to improve the Bill if re-elected, praised his wider record, and endorsed him anyway.

Mr Clinton will formally accept his party's presidential nomination tonight.

□ Bob Dole has moved to strengthen his campaign by appointing Donald Rumsfeld, a former Defence Secretary, as his campaign chairman, and William Bennett, a former education chairman, as a vice-chairman. Both were campaign advisers.

Hillary 'kept' suicide note

A newly disclosed memorandum suggests that Hillary Clinton was responsible for a 30-hour delay in giving investigators the "suicide note" written by Vincent Foster (James Bone writes). The memo quotes Thomas McLarty, then White House Chief of Staff, as saying that Mrs Clinton called for the delay.



A pro-choice advocate represents the Democrats' liberal family image in Chicago

Chelsea emerges as asset in campaign for White House

FROM TOM RHODES ON BOARD THE 21ST CENTURY EXPRESS

INSIDE the presidential carriage, she would giggle about the handsome Secret Service agents, play cards with her father and even make wry remarks about his political progress across the industrial Midwest of America.

And at regular stops along the route of the 21st Century Express, Chelsea Clinton would appear at the President's side, a gangly but poised symbol of his commitment to the family and the future of the United States.

Finally, she left to attend her mother's speech to the convention while Mr Clinton continued yesterday to steam across Michigan and Indiana and into the Democratic belly of Chicago last night.

Even after her departure, however, the spiritual presence of the 16-year-old first daughter remained almost tangible, introducing a new programme to counter illiteracy at Wyandotte, Michigan, Mr Clinton applauded two children who read to him extracts from *The Little Engine That Could*.

That book, of all the hundreds and hundreds of books that Hillary and I read to Chelsea when she was a little girl, is probably one of our favourites," said Mr Clinton.

It was the same wherever the train could stop. Mr Clinton argued tougher and crime measures to defend the younger generation, a stronger economy for the future and

educational opportunities for every American child. Chelsea's name, of course, was never far from his lips.

In the four years since the last election, she has moved from the quiet, ballet dancing child whose private life should be protected at all costs to a quasi-campaign poster girl and perhaps the most exploited political asset in the Clinton armoury. Hard-working, polite, and a health zealot who spies on smokers in the White House, Chelsea is also a face of innocence able to deflect public attention from the various character flaws that have plagued her parents.

And her presence is clearly designed to emphasise the Clinton success as a family compared to that of Senator Bob Dole, whose daughter by his first marriage, Robin, appears a lonely and often frustrated figure.

The White House is aware of the advantages Chelsea brings to this campaign but has denied she has any role as a political understudy. Often eager to offer her opinion on the success of the five-state trip and on elements of his planned speech tonight, a senior aide said Chelsea was no Amy Carter, lecturing her father on nuclear disarmament, but she was her own woman: "Chelsea wanted to be there at this important time in her parents' lives, for her mother's speech and her father's nomination address."

Media overkill as viewers switch over

The whole world is watching, anti-war protesters chanted as police clubbed them during the Democrats' 1968 convention in Chicago.

By 1992 only 21 million Americans tuned in to the Democrats' New York convention, and on the opening night of this year's jamboree that figure fell below 17 million.

One commentator damningly noted that more people watch Ross Perot's half-hour television commercials featuring the diminutive Texas billionaire lecturing on the federal deficit with the aid of countless charts and graphs.

Over the years the networks have also reduced their coverage to a mere 60 minutes nightly, but media attendance at these conventions continues inexorably to rise. There are roughly 15,000 newshounds in

CHICAGO NOTEBOOK

Chicago, nearly four for every delegate. The Washington Post has a team of 45.

The New York Times evidently has someone whose task is to scrutinise the almost instantaneous transcript of each speaker's words that appears on the giant screen behind them.

Its list of howlers yesterday included "Jack Buddhist thugs" for "jackbooted thugs", "Marty Oh Quem Oe" instead of Mario Cuomo, and "ideal logs" instead of "ideologues".

Despite the massive media presence just two news organisations have managed to obtain interviews with Hillary Clinton. One was CNN. The other was Children's Express, a news service run for kids by kids. It may have helped, of course, that one of their reporters was the ten-year-old daughter of Harold Ickes, the deputy White House chief of staff.

For insights on Hillary, local radio stations have turned to Roger Clinton, the President's younger brother. His startling prediction is that she will one day seek the Oval Office herself. The President will be "campaigning for Hillary after his term is over. Bill and Hillary have a lot more to give to the country than just the next four years," said the First Brother. "Wait, it will happen."

This will come as rather a shock for Vice-President Al Gore, who is being almost

universally hailed by the conventioners as Mr Clinton's heir-apparent.

Spontaneity is a dirty word in Chicago this week. Ad-libbing from the podium is a capital offence. The party politburo mass-produces banners to wave. Vendors can only sell officially sanctioned badges and stickers, far too tame to bother with. Even street demonstrations must be licensed. Thank goodness, then, for Tipper Gore, the Vice-President's spirited blonde wife. This week she was jogging by Lake Michigan when, without warning and to the horror of Secret Service agents, she plunged in. "Tipper the Drifter" they call her.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Titanic 'struggle' resumes

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

SALVAGE vessels resumed their effort to raise a section of the *Titanic* from the ocean floor yesterday after aborting the mission on Tuesday when specially designed balloons failed to float it to the surface.

The lifting of the 13-tonne chunk of wreckage from the doomed liner, struck by an iceberg on its maiden voyage on April 15, 1912 — with the loss of 1,522 lives — is the centrepiece of a much-criticised tourist cruise to the site of the shipwreck.

Although three *Titanic* survivors are aboard, including 99-year-old Edith Haisman, from Britain, others have called the expedition an act of "grave-robbing".



Firemen near Castaic, California, make their way through canyons to cut breaks to halt wildfires

Gift from Libya to be banned

BY JAMES BONE

THE United States Government is expected to block a donation of \$1 billion (£645 million) from Libya to the American black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan.

A US official was quoted yesterday as saying that the Treasury Department would almost certainly reject an application by Mr Farrakhan to receive the gift, despite the threat of legal action by his Nation of Islam.

"We will fight for what we believe is our legal right, and I will go across the nation stirring up not only my own people, but all those who would benefit from it," Mr Farrakhan said. "We are not terrorists."

Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, promised the gift to Mr Farrakhan during his trip to Tripoli in January. He plans to return to Libya this week to receive a \$250,000 prize.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said: "We would expect American citizens to honour their obligations under US law, which prohibits economic transactions involving Libya which

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Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on strong medicine for arthritis sufferers; diagnosing fractured skulls; the advantages of formula milk; alternative medicine, plus why oak trees can make you sneeze

Last week a woman in her 70s woke to find her pillow soaked in blood and immediately realised that she had bled from her mouth. Unfortunately, she started to vomit large quantities of blood and died before she could be successfully transfused and treated. The haematemesis, bleeding from the upper gastro-intestinal tract, was probably in part the result of taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These anti-inflammatory drugs are used to treat the inflammation and pain in arthritis and allied conditions.

The NSAIDs are an invaluable tool in medicine and have revolutionised the lifestyles of patients who would otherwise be crippled, and rendered sleepless, by pain and stiffness. Unfortunately, the NSAIDs have a wide variety of side-effects. In occasional cases this group of drugs causes hypersensitivity reactions, wheezing, swelling of the lips and mouth, urticaria and other rashes. Sometimes the NSAIDs cause fluid retention which may even, in some elderly patients, induce heart strain. Other patients complain of ringing ears, dizziness and headaches and even more rarely liver, kidney and bone damage has been reported. Although this is an impressive list of possible troubles most of the hundreds of thousands of patients who take the drugs are not troubled by them; conversely far too many do suffer the side-effects associated with inflammation of the gastro-intestinal tract, the stomach and guts. Many patients complain of abdominal pain and nausea, symptoms which can be eased if patients take the drugs with food or milk.

Unfortunately, a severe, sometimes even fatal, reaction is a not uncommon sequel to the use of these anti-inflammatory drugs. When it is known that there is a history of recent stomach or duodenal ulceration NSAIDs are not prescribed, and most doctors are also chary about giving them to patients who have had ulcers in the past. The dreaded complications of NSAID therapy are sudden perforation of an ulcer or a massive bleed. These complications are most likely to affect older patients, particularly those with a history of indigestion, or those who smoke, drink heavily or are also taking steroids.

Extrapolation from a survey of 1 per cent of the country's population shows that each year there are 12,000 cases of perforation of an ulcer, or a serious bleed, in patients taking anti-inflammatory drugs. In 10 per cent of those who suffered a serious complication it proved fatal, and in 70 per cent of the fatalities the death was so sudden that it took place at home, or on the way to hospital. The number of patients who experience one of these very severe reactions is possibly only the tip of the iceberg; far more may have inflammation without ulceration. A study of 9,000 Americans showed that more than 20 per cent of those taking these drugs lose enough blood to make them liable to become anaemic.

Doctors are not complacent about NSAIDs. The research continues in the search for a safer drug and perhaps the greatest advance to date has been introduction of misoprostol Cytotec, which when combined with an NSAID diclofenac and marketed as Arthrotec has dramatically cut the incidence of serious side-effects. This month a stronger Arthrotec mixture with 75mg of diclofenac, the tablet which need only be taken twice rather than three times a day, has been introduced.

A large study in 51 centres in ten countries has shown that the larger 75mg dose of diclofenac, when combined with the same amount of misoprostol, causes no more side-effects than the 50mg tablet, but can in some cases be more effective at relieving inflammation. Arthrotec is



Older patients are most at risk of severe complications from non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

not the complete answer but endoscopic examination shows that when it is taken, rather than a simple NSAID, the number of people who suffer gastro-intestinal side-effects falls from 19.4 to 6.7 per cent, and the combination halves both the numbers suffering serious complications

and anaemia. All anti-arthritis tablets should be taken with or after food and they should be swallowed with fluids, while the patient is standing up so that they do not stick in the gullet. Afterwards, the patient should not sit or lie down for 30 minutes. People should never delude them-

selves that they have cast-iron guts impervious to the strongest tablet because recent research has shown that serious complications of NSAID can appear without warning. Doses prescribed should always be as small as is effective, and certainly when my back is playing up I take Arthrotec.

X-rays may fail to spot damage Skull fractures that lie hidden

As a casualty officer one of my great fears was failing to diagnose a fractured skull. Patients who had fallen off motorbikes or cycles, been thrown from horses or fallen from windows were subjected to meticulous examination, and when possible questioning, and their X-rays were studied minutely.

A fracture of the vault of the skull is usually easy to diagnose on X-ray, but those running across the base of the skull may initially not be spotted on an X-ray and may only be diagnosed in the first instance because of the signs. The base of the skull is the shelf on which the brains rest and although a fracture there is easy to overlook it is much more dangerous than a simple vault fracture.

When I remember my own experiences, the casualty officer in a small hospital in Italy who failed to diagnose a fractured skull in Charlotte, a four-year-old friend, therefore had some, but not much, of my sympathy. The doctor failed to notice a fractured vault which perhaps would not have mattered, but also apparently did not understand the significance of bleeding from the ear, a rapidly blackening eye, and the patient's semi-comatose state. Fortunately the doctor, and the patient, were rescued by a good second opinion and Charlotte was helicoptered to a very efficient neurosurgical unit.

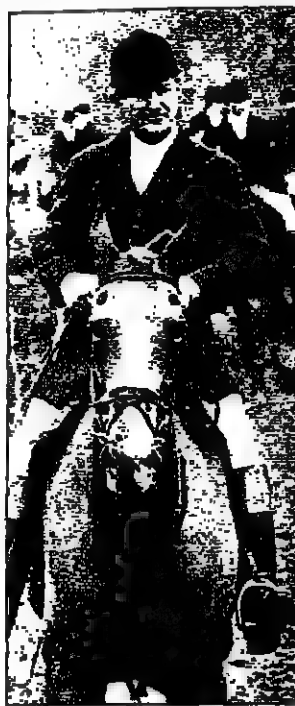
The accident happened when Charlotte's brother, Thomas, fell from a balcony after a balustrade gave way. He was not seriously hurt. Charlotte, who had an inquiring mind, peered over the edge to see what had happened, went too close to the brink and followed her brother over it.

The base of the skull is divided into three portions, the anterior, middle and posterior cranial fossae. Fracture of the anterior cranial fossa may result in the cerebro spinal fluid (CSF), the fluid from around the brain, leaking down the nose. This can lead to an ascending infection of meningitis or can cause bleeding into the orbit — a black eye.

Bleeding into the orbit from a fracture can be distinguished from an ordinary black eye as its colour has a purple hue,

whereas a blow to the eye causes the bruise to have a reddish colour. The bruise around the eye after a fracture is semicircular, very neatly following the lower edge of the orbit, unlike the ragged appearance of a black eye. If both eyes are blackened simultaneously from a single injury it is obvious that a fracture is the cause.

Fracture of the middle cranial fossa is characterised by bleeding from the ear. The diagnostic clue in these fractures is to study the way the blood flows. Unless there has been a massive haemorrhage after a fracture, the blood is



Keep the chin straps on

mixed with CSF, and does not clot. When the bleeding is from a local injury in the ear clotting occurs quickly.

Charlotte's signs therefore suggested that she had a fracture running across both the anterior and middle cranial fossae. She is now out of hospital apparently none the worse: there is no evidence of lasting brain damage, no loss of hearing, nor damage to the nerve supply of the muscles of the eye.

Only time will show whether her sense of smell has been affected, which is a very common sequel to fractures of the anterior cranial fossa.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SPIRIT OF ECSTASY

An exclusive interview with Faye Dunaway - on her phantoms, clouds and shadows

ROLLS ROYCE

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Most babies are weaned from the bottle or breast to cows' milk, but some mothers continue to give their children a made-up formula milk, which includes added iron. Simple cows' milk is deficient in iron.

Research published in the *Archives of Diseases in Childhood* has shown that the "follow on" made-up formula milks for babies may have an advantage over

A warning about weaning

cows' milk. The research, which was carried out in the Birmingham Children's Hospital, studied 100 inner-city children aged between six months and two years.

Only 3 per cent of those on the formula milk were anaemic at a year, only 2 per cent at 18 months, and none was anaemic by the

age of two. Conversely, at a year, 31 per cent of the babies who drank cows' milk were anaemic, at 18 months this had increased to 33 per cent, and 26 per cent were still anaemic at the age of two. Anaemia causes breathlessness and lowers resistance to infection.

Dr Jake Mackinnon, a consultant paediatrician with a large practice in West London, said: "Doorstep milk is deficient in iron but it may well be significant that these children came from a poor inner-city area."

How alternative medicine works

THE Duchess of York and Diana, Princess of Wales, are renowned for their advocacy of alternative medicine. One of the Duchess's medical advisers is Richard Helfrich, who practises in Beverly Hills. Mr Helfrich has written a book, *Take Control of Your Health*.



Diana: valid treatment?

explaining alternative procedures and the rationale which determines their prescription. There are differences between what doctors regard as complementary medicine and alternative medicine. Any form of alternative medicine may be helpful if it fulfils a need in the patient, but much of it is hard for doctors to accept if standard medical teaching has any validity. Doctors who have, for instance, been referring suitable patients for osteopathy, an accepted complementary discipline, may have wondered just what happens to their patients when they have colon-ic irrigation sessions.

Mr Helfrich's book provides the answer to the many questions asked by patients who are enamoured by alternative procedures and also provides the essential clues to what gossip columnists are writing about when they describe the medical activities of those who, like the Duchess of York and the Princess, believe in it.

Mr Helfrich's opinions are interesting but his views would not find favour, even acceptance, with traditional examiners in medicine.

Take Control of Your Health, Richard Helfrich, Duckworths £9.95.

When oak gets up your nose

DR ANDREW ROSS, another Birmingham doctor, has also been busy over the last seven years studying the cause of hay fever when it attacks patients in springtime, before there is much grass pollen in the atmosphere.

The usually accepted medical opinion is that hay fever in April is more often than not the result of an allergy to birch pollen, or possibly to small quantities of some very early flowering grass.

The oak is such a prestige symbol that it seems almost unpatriotic to attack it. However, Dr Ross has reported in the *British Journal of General Practice* that he believes that the oak, and not birch, is responsible for springtime hay fever.

Dr Ross has shown that the peak incidence of early-season allergic rhinitis occurs after the birch has stopped flowering and before there is grass pollen in the air, but that it coincides with the period when the air is laden with oak pollen.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 29 1996



Jeremy Hardie, left, WH Smith chairman, with Bill Cockburn, chief executive, yesterday. The group admits a full recovery will take four years

WH Smith reports first loss in 204-year history

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WH SMITH reported the first loss in its 204-year history yesterday and admitted that it is up to four years away from a full recovery.

The company made a pre-tax loss of £194.7 million in the year ending June 1 because of exceptional items and losses on discontinued activities of £293.5 million. Last year's profit was £100.9 million.

Bill Cockburn, chief executive, said that so far this year trading was patchy. "A lot of our heartland products, like books and stationery, are doing okay, but music, video and computer games sales are very poor. They are very dependent on the quality of new blockbuster releases and they have not been as good as last year."

But he said that after its major restructuring the group

was now on the right track: "We are in the foothills of the Cairngorms, but we still have the mountains to climb." He said that "the real challenge" is in WH Smith Retail, the division responsible for its 549-strong chain of shops.

Mr Cockburn has put the group through a series of major changes since he took charge in January. It has disposed of its half share in Do It All, which Boots took off its hands. It has also sold Paperchase, its business supplies company, and Heathcote Books, and made around 1,100 staff redundant. According to Mr Cockburn: "The bulk of job cuts are now behind us. Although there is of course room for productivity improvement, the major disposals and disruptions are done."

Mr Cockburn said that it will not be clear until Christmas whether business is picking up. Margins were still disappointing. "Frankly, they

are just not good enough and all the reorganisation is aimed at driving them up," he said.

At the WH Smith shops there are now 29 per cent fewer lines stocked, freeing up shelf space. The company plans to use some of the space for a new range of children's goods.

On the music side, the group plans to open 80 new Virgin stores and close up to 70 of the less profitable Our Price stores.

Losses per share were 71.4p, compared to earnings per share of 23.9p last year. The company proposes paying an unchanged final dividend of 10.4p, which will mean an unchanged full-year dividend of 15.65p.

Before exceptional items, the company made a pre-tax

profit of £96.8 million, compared to £115.2 million a year ago. Mr Cockburn said that if the results of companies disposed of during the year were added, the profit figure would have been £10 million lower.

WH Smith shares, which have recently been trading near their year's highest level, were down 4½p, to 509½p.

The company also announced yesterday that Simon Burke, managing director of Virgin Our Price, has resigned and will leave on November 1 to return to the Virgin Retail group, where he will be chief executive responsible for its retail and cinema businesses worldwide. WH Smith has yet to find a replacement.

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Uphill fight, page 29

Sears to close 200 shoe shops returned from Facia collapse

By JASON NISSE

SEARS, the troubled retailer, is closing — at a cost of up to 2,000 jobs — 200 shoe shops that have come back to it after the collapse of the Facia empire run by Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman now the subject of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry.

About 90 of the shops have already been closed and the rest are being shut as soon as all the stock is sold. Huge sales are taking place in all shops still controlled by Sears, with customers being offered fixtures and fittings, as well as shoes at below half price.

Sears received back 370 shops because of the collapse of the Facia empire. It has already disposed of more than 100 in deals with the footwear groups Stylo and Stead & Simpson and has asked Healey & Baker, the chartered surveyor, to sell the rest.

Healey & Baker has now been told to offer the 200 shops with "vacant possession", meaning that the shoe outlets will be closed by the time any buyer wants to occupy them.

Nearly 1,000 jobs have been lost with the approximately 90 shops already closed. Although the staff were technically employed by Mr Hinchliffe's companies, now in administration, Sears has agreed to make redundancy payments as if they had never left the employment of Sears.

This could cost the retailer more than £4 million. The closures are expected to force Sears into losses in its half-year figures, to be announced next month. Tony Shirer, retailing analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, estimates that Sears will make £23 million of profits before provisions, which are now almost certain to plunge Sears into the red.

Liam Strong, chief executive of Sears, last month said that

the company would make provisions of £25 million to cover losses on properties reverting to it because of Facia's collapse. Part of this has already been used up, with Sears having to pay Stylo an £8.75 million incentive to take just 61 Saxeone stores off its hands. Now it appears the provisions will have to be substantially higher than £25 million.

Sears put in a claim for £30 million to KPMG, the receiver of Facia, because of money that it says is owed to it for stock and other services provided to Mr Hinchliffe's empire by Sears.

Although it is unlikely that Sears will lose the whole £30 million claimed, because it will receive money from the sale of stock left in Facia, it is also unlikely to recover anywhere near the whole amount. Its net losses from this claim could exceed £10 million.

Sears has already written off £54 million, treated as exceptional losses, as a result of selling its Saxeone and Freeman Hardy Willis chains to Mr Hinchliffe's companies.

The empire collapsed after proceedings were started by the Department of Trade and Industry to have Mr Hinchliffe struck off as a director, and Sears put three of his companies into administration.

The SFO is now investigating transfers of up to £10 million from some Facia companies to other groups controlled by Mr Hinchliffe and, two weeks ago, raided addresses in Sheffield and London that had connections with Mr Hinchliffe.

Mr Hinchliffe, though, retains a high profile and was recently seen in the directors' box at Sheffield United Football Club.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FT-SE 100	3518.7	(+13.0)	
Yield	3.95%		
FT-SE All share	1926.24	(+6.00)	
Nikkei	20709.87	(-200.46)	
Dow Jones	8723.11	(+11.94)	
S&P Composite	566.79	(+0.35)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5¼%	(5¼%)	
Long Bond	97½	(97½)	
Yield	6.97%	(6.97%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-mth interbank	5¼%	(5¼%)	
Life long gilt	107½	(107½)	
Future (Sep)			
STERLING			
New York	1.5895	(1.5846)	
London	1.5883	(1.5851)	
DM	2.3015	(2.2987)	
FF	7.2854	(7.2650)	
SFR	1.8579	(1.8550)	
Yen	169.04	(167.62)	
£ Index	88.0	(84.8)	
DOLLAR			
DM	1.4785	(1.4785)	
FF	6.0822	(6.0570)	
SFR	1.5228	(1.5038)	
Yen	105.41	(107.70)	
£ Index	86.0	(85.0)	
Tokyo close Yen 106.49			
NORTH SEA OIL			
London 15-day (Nov)	\$20.05	(\$19.89)	
London close	\$388.55	(\$388.55)	
* denotes midday trading price			

Rothschild

NM Rothschild, the family controlled merchant bank rocked by the death of Amichel Rothschild last month, is to shake up its senior management structure. Page 27

Childcare

The Government published a consultation paper on increasing childcare, although it gave no hint on whether it would give in to pressure on extending tax relief for companies offering workplace provision in the home. Business welcomed the proposals. Page 26

Lloyd's poised for £3bn step as rescue is backed

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Lloyd's of London council is today expected to declare its ground-breaking £3.2 billion settlement offer unconditional, after receiving a resounding endorsement of its recovery plan for the insurance market.

More than 90 per cent of the 34,000 Lloyd's names worldwide had accepted the settlement by yesterday's noon deadline, giving Lloyd's a strong mandate to move forward. Lloyd's said it would continue receiving acceptances from names in America — many of whom had delayed responding while court proceedings were going on. Rebel US names secured an injunction on the reconstruction and renewal plan in a court in Virginia on Friday, only to see the ruling overturned on appeal.

Lloyd's said that 66.7 per cent of the 3,000 American

names had accepted the offer by 4pm yesterday. By then, 31,001 names — or 90.3 per cent of members — had agreed to the offer. Lloyd's was inundated with faxes from names in America after Tuesday's ruling in the US Appeals Court in Baltimore.

David Rowland, chairman, said: "The level of acceptance speaks for itself. Members have made their views toward the reconstruction of Lloyd's abundantly clear."

Mr Rowland acknowledged that many overseas members, particularly in America, may have deferred accepting the offer in the light of the Virginia ruling. He said: "In the circumstances, I believe that the fair and proper course is to exercise flexibility in receiving acceptance forms beyond today's deadline."

Lloyd's council will decide

whether to grant a formal extension of the offer when it meets this afternoon. Names who do not accept risk being pursued through the courts for the full extent of their losses.

There is no specified level of support for Lloyd's offer to go unconditional. Lloyd's council must instead satisfy itself that enough litigants of sufficient weight have accepted, and that enough money will be forthcoming to fund the market's recovery plan.

Lloyd's must next convince the Department of Trade and Industry that sufficient premiums are available to fund Equitas, the insurance company designed to take on losses for 1992 and prior years. The DTI is expected to consider the issue of Lloyd's solvency within the next week.

Pennington, page 27

Interest rate rise in Japan now unlikely

SPECULATION about a rise in Japanese interest rates ended yesterday with news of a surprise fall in business confidence in August (Janet Bush writes).

The Bank of Japan's quarterly corporate Tankan survey showed its major index of manufacturing sentiment falling to minus seven, from minus three in May. Most forecasts had expected the index to show a modest rise.

The confidence index has proved a good guide to Japanese monetary policy decisions, and analysts said the chance of a rate rise this year is now quite remote. The Japanese central bank cut its official discount rate to 0.5 per cent last September and has kept it there since then.

After the Tankan was released, the dollar surged along with Japanese government bonds.

Economic View, page 29

Trade boost as index hits high

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A NEW stock market record high yesterday coincided with an encouraging set of British trade figures and an excellent auction of government bonds.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 13 points up, at a new closing high of 3,518.7. Although the rise largely reflected another positive performance on Wall Street, the positive economic news provided background confidence.

Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world was £1.12 billion in June, virtually unchanged from May and better than City forecasts of a £1.4 billion shortfall.

Figures for Britain's trade performance with non-European countries were also published, and showed the deficit narrowing to £506 million in July, from £1.1 billion in June. Exports were up 6.7 per cent, while imports fell by 1.2 per

cent, mainly because of lower imports of aircraft.

The Office for National Statistics said that the pattern of the deficit has been erratic and that it is difficult to judge the overall trend. Its best guess, however, is that the trend is flat.

This is encouraging given that stronger demand at home ought to be sucking in imports, and exports were expected to have been held back by sluggish growth in Europe. Hopes that accelerating economic growth this year will help to reduce government borrowing was one factor that prompted strong demand at yesterday's £2.5 billion auction of 7.5 per cent gilts due in 2006.

The sale attracted bids of more than two and a half times the total amount on offer, a very good result.

Hanson reveals £95m cost of four-way split

By ALASDAIR MURRAY



Derek Bonham, left, and Gareth Davis, chief executive

HANSON revealed yesterday that it had cost around £95 million to split the company into four. Details of the costs, which exclude some bond charges still to be determined, emerged in the listing details sent out yesterday for Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals.

The companies, which are the first two divisions to be spun off from Hanson, are expected to start trading at the start of October. But the City remained unimpressed and Hanson shares fell ¼p to close at 160p.

Imperial, where Derek Bonham is chairman, is expected to be valued at more than £2 billion. It is the UK's second largest tobacco company with 38 per cent

of the market. Imperial said it would be looking for better productivity and cost efficiencies. The company is also aiming to improve its position in export markets.

Last year Imperial made operating profits of £348 million on a turnover of £3.6 billion or £747 million if duty is stripped out. The company has been bequeathed debts of £1.1 billion by Hanson. Imperial said the estimated dividend for 1996 was 20p and it would operate a progressive dividend policy.

Millennium Chemicals, which will be valued at £1.85 billion. The company will include Quantum Chemicals, SCM Chemicals and the 26 per cent interest in Surburban Propane. William Landuyt, chairman and chief executive, said Mil-

lennium was looking to maximise long-term cash flow and make selective acquisitions. The company said it would pay a 60 cents dividend next year, but added it was not a dividend stock. Mr Landuyt also hinted of a share buyback by the end of the decade. Last year Millennium made profits of \$842 million on a turnover of \$3.8 billion.

Investors will get one Imperial share for every ten Hanson and one Millennium share for every 70 Hanson. The Energy group, including Eastern Electricity, will be the last to demerge early next year. An EGM on September 25 will seek shareholder approval for the Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals demerger.

Pennington, page 27

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Brewer sounds wage warning

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WHITBREAD, the brewer, says that a national minimum wage introduced by a future Labour government at £4.15 an hour would push up its salary costs sharply and lead directly to job losses.

The warning marks a specific declaration against Labour's policy of a minimum wage by a company in an industrial sector — food and drink production and distribution — that is likely to be one of the areas most heavily affected by it.

Labour Party sources said yesterday that warnings such as Whitbread's were unrealistic because they were based on calculations made on a specific figure for a minimum wage.

Labour will come under pressure in a fortnight's time to set a specific figure when unions at the TUC conference press for a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour. However, the party says it will not do so in advance of a general election. It will only do so after consulting industry through a new low pay commission that will recommend a minimum level.

Basing its calculations on previous union demands for a national minimum set at £4.15 an hour, Whitbread's unpublished document, *A National Minimum Wage — a Whitbread Position Paper*, says that while a minimum wage set at, say, £3 an hour would have a "negligible" impact on the company, a statutory minimum at £4.15 would add an extra £27 million to its salary costs and could cost the leisure industry generally up to £167 million.

The Whitbread document, detailed in today's *People Management* magazine, says that a £4.15 plus minimum would force the company to cut the 3,000 jobs it says that it creates annually, reduce pay differentials, reduce hours and lead directly to redundancies.



Tony Hill, chief executive of Surrey Free Inns, left, and Patrick Townsend, chairman, who delivered a 46 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits

Industry supports call for childcare strategy

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday welcomed the Government's proposal for a national childcare strategy, aimed at increasing women's ability to take on jobs and improving Britain's competitiveness.

Although ministers pledged no new money with the move, which is intended to encourage business to improve its childcare provision, business leaders and childcare campaigners saw it as a significant shift by the Government towards a more co-ordinated approach to a key aspect of labour market policy.

The Government yesterday published a consultation paper on increasing childcare facilities, although ministers would give no hint about whether the Government is likely to accede to campaigners' pressure and extend current tax relief for businesses offering workplace

childcare to childcare provision in the home.

Whitehall officials acknowledge that, although many big companies claim tax relief for workplace nurseries, the take-up among firms is small.

The consultation paper says that "while there has been an increase in childcare provision in recent years, much more is needed". Accepting that it has left it to the market, the Government insisted yesterday that it would not increase its intervention by raising current subsidies for child care.

Cheryl Gillan, the Education and Employment Minister, said there was a strong business case for childcare provision. "I am clear that this is an area where the Government should not act alone," she said. "I do not believe in a nanny state."

Childcare campaigners argue that lack of care facilities limits the number of women able to work, and the document goes some way towards this view, saying that "efficient provision of childcare contributes to economic competitiveness" and that "this strategy will not be fully effective if significant numbers of women are prevented from using fully their learning and skills in the labour market".

In an explicit move towards a national childcare strategy, the Government said that it was "considering whether a basis exists for developing a broad national framework within which all parties can work together to provide childcare services that meet local labour market needs".

Business leaders broadly welcomed the Government's move. The CBI said the paper was a "welcome development complementing the increasing use of family-friendly and flexible working practices to recruit and retain employees with family responsibilities".

The Institute of Directors said that it hoped that the new emphasis would "enable parents to return to work".

The TUC said: "Britain needs a national childcare strategy, led by the Government, based on partnership." Fiona Cannon, of the pressure group Employers for Childcare, said the Government's move was "an exciting and significant step forward".

Ministers insist that although improved childcare is a family policy, it is one with a strong business case, and they indicated yesterday that they want to make quick progress on the issue after a very short eight-week consultation period on the new proposals.

Concern on AIM share fluctuations

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PATRICK TOWNSEND, chairman of Surrey Free Inns, the pub retailer that was voted AIM company of the year, yesterday expressed serious concern about "violent fluctuations" in AIM market share prices at times of little activity.

He said he had raised the matter with the stock exchange because he was worried that volatile movements in price might undermine investor confidence.

Mr Townsend's comments came as the company unveiled a 46 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits to £1.2 million.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to £12.6 million, while the total dividend was increased 25 per cent to 2.25p.

Gearing stood at 66 per cent at the year-end and is expected to rise further this year.

Shares in the company rose 11.5p to 290p, compared with a price of just 75p a year ago. A final dividend of 1.25p a share is payable on November 29.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Top pensions still hidden, says study

DISCLOSURE of the £3 million pension package secured by George Simpson at GEC is unlikely to be repeated in many companies. A survey of company accounts by Lane Clark & Peacock, the consulting actuary, finds little improvement in information given to shareholders. "Pending full implementation of new Stock Exchange requirements, disclosures about directors' pensions still fall far short of revealing the true position, particularly where the director belongs to the main staff pension scheme," the actuary concludes.

New listing rules should reduce the scope for avoiding some disclosure. However, Bob Scott, of LC&P, says that recommendations of the Greenbury report on directors' pay have been fudged. A joint proposal by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries to implement Greenbury suggested that the value to the director be disclosed as the transfer value of pension earned in the year. This would have led to disclosure of the huge pension cost of directors recruited or promoted in their late forties and fifties, as well as the effect of bumping up pay shortly before retirement. Lobbying by the CBI and others led to actuaries coming up with a looser formula that merely aims to let investors calculate the value of pensions accrued.

New jobs for Tyneside

MORE than 400 jobs are to be created at a Tyneside offshore engineering yard that has become part of a leading Norwegian company. The link-up between McNulty Offshore Services in South Shields and Aker Oil and Gas Technology, which has gained a 70 per cent stake, will result in the doubling of the existing 450 workforce. Peter McNulty, managing director, said that the company was buying the Tyne Dock site next door. The expanded operation and recruitment is planned to be spread over two years.

Threat to Coats factory

ALMOST 400 jobs in Northern Ireland were under threat last night when Coats Viyella announced that it was to stop shirt production at its plant in Maydown, Co Londonderry. The company said that by the end of the year all its shirts would be imported. Some 380 people are employed at the factory which specialises in the production of Peter England and Van Heusen shirts for the UK and European markets. Coats Viyella is exploring alternative uses for the Maydown plant in a bid to maximise continued employment.

Treble for Inteltek

INTELEK, the electronics and aerospace company, trebled underlying profits over the year to April 30, after a full-year contribution from Pascal, its satellite systems producer. Demand for mobile phones helped to lift sales at its electronics division to £19 million. Sharply increased margins raised operating profits from £529,000 to £1.64 million, leaving pre-tax profits of £1.16 million (£604,000). Earnings rose from 0.79p to 1.68p, giving a final of 0.6p (0.5p). It will be paid on October 10, and takes the total to 0.9p (0.75p).

Domnick Hunter ahead

DOMNICK HUNTER, the filtration and gas separation group, said yesterday that its newly created gas generation division is unlikely to go into the black until 1998. The operation currently accounts for about 5 per cent of group turnover and makes a small loss. Domnick Hunter yesterday reported a 23.9 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £4.2 million, on turnover up from £21.7 million to £25.7 million. Earnings per share rose 22.9 per cent to 8.04p, and the interim dividend climbed 20 per cent to 2.88p.

CrestaCare advances

CRESTACARE, the UK's third-largest nursing home operator, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.62 million (£2.59 million) in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share were unchanged at 1p; there is an interim dividend of 0.3p (0.29p) a share and average occupancy has stabilised just above 86 per cent. Significant progress has been made on a number of new projects, including a new 91-bed facility in London, and a 60-bed, long-stay facility in Scotland. Almost 450 additional beds are expected to be added in the next financial year.

Beales Hunter up

BEALES HUNTER, the electrical equipment company, yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £3.24 million for the 12 months to the end of May 1996, compared with losses of £950,000 last year. The company said that the electrical division's order position was good and margins were stable, although the market remained competitive. Losses per share of 4.5p were turned into earnings of 21.8p. The setting of a final dividend of 7.5p brings the full-year dividend to 10.7p, against 10.2p.

Newspaper bid silence

INDEPENDENT GROUP, the Irish newspaper company, yesterday refused to confirm it was interested in buying United Provincial Newspapers' southern titles, which have been put up for sale by United News & Media. Earlier this month a joint bid by Independent and Mirror Group Newspapers failed to secure Pearson's regional newspapers, despite being the highest offer. The two already control Newspaper Publishing, which publishes *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, and are anxious to expand into the regional market.

Guinness Peat ahead

GUINNESS PEAT, the investment group, yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £11.2 million for the half year to June 30 up from £6.9 million. Most of the company's earnings stemmed from the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Physicians Insurance of Ohio. Garry Weiss, a GPG director, said he expected a strong full-year result. The company did not declare an interim dividend as in the previous year. It also said that Ballarat Brewing, for which it has made a takeover offer, "has considerable potential for a successful integration with other group activities".

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Back to school in style

You can win £30,000 worth of prizes to make going back to school heaps more fun. First, *The Times*, in association with Chrysler, gives you the opportunity to win a fantastic Jeep Cherokee worth £19,550.

What better way to start the new term than to ferry the children in wheels like this?

The Cherokee is compact and easy to drive so it makes light work of heavy traffic and its tight turning circle makes those jams outside the school gates easy to negotiate.

It comes with everything the safety conscious parent and style conscious child could wish for and you will be able to drive off the beaten track for weekend and holiday adventures.



HOW TO ENTER

Call our competition hotline below with your answer to the following question:

Name of the chieftain father of Pocahontas

a) Powhatan b) Sitting Bull

(Correct answer according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.)

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received before midnight on the closing date, Thursday, September 12, 1996. The same Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL 0891 665 593

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

Educational prizes worth £5,000 to be won



In association with leading educational publishers, Dorling Kindersley and Xemplar Education, who supply IT systems to schools, *The Times* gives you the chance to win one of two of the best computers on the market an Apple and an Acorn plus videos, CD-Roms and children's books.

HOW TO ENTER

Call our competition hotline with your answer to the following question: Which of these dinosaurs had three horns?

a) brontosaurus b) brachiosaurus c) triceratops

Closing date and competition rules as above.

CALL 0891 665 596

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

£3,000 worth of junior electronics to be won

The Times, in association with Tiger Electronics, gives you the chance to win exciting prizes featuring the most up to date computer gizmos for children. We have a total of 35 prizes to give away. There are 15 Video Quest Master Computers, 10 Power Pack PCs, 5 Precious Pet Diaries and 5 Deluxe Dear Diaries. These junior electronic computers have multilevel built-in learning activities with talking vocabularies, graphics functions, challenging trivia questions, instructions on how to look after pets, how to plan a wardrobe, send messages to their friends, as well as teaching children spelling, basic grammar and maths.



HOW TO ENTER Call our competition hotline below with your answer to this question: Tiger is a character in which book?

Closing date and competition rules as above.

TIGER

CALL 0891 665 593

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

One-jet airline signs BA franchise deal

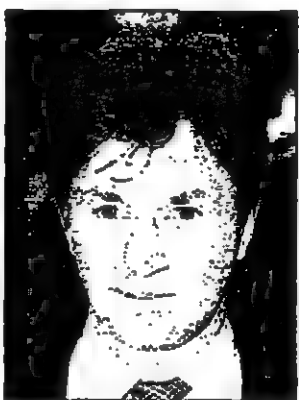
By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Mediterranean Airways — the tiny one-jet airline formed less than two years ago to compete with British Airways — has signed a franchise agreement with its giant rival.

From the end of next month the national Airbus A320 will fly between London and Beirut, Damascus and Amman in BA colours and join a rapidly growing list of small airlines that have agreed to become franchise partners.

British Airways, whose chief executive is Bob Ayling, has agreed to pull out of the routes, which were losing money for both airlines. BMA will become the sole British operator to the Levant. In return BMA has dropped its application for licences to fly on some of BA's most lucrative routes to Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, and to Kuwait City.

The BMA board, which includes David Burnside, former BA public affairs director, will remain in total control and there will be no exchange of equity. All the airline's profits, or losses, will go to BMA but it will pay an undisclosed flat fee to BA and alter flight timings to fit with BA's international network of services.



Ayling: rational solution

BMA, which has now flown more than 50,000 passengers between London and the Middle East, will expand its fleet of Airbus A320s to enable it to operate daily on the routes, and plans to open new services to Egypt and Tashkent.

Franchises are becoming a phenomenon of the aviation industry and BA has now signed ten such deals — six with small British carriers and four from overseas.

Between them they carried 3.4 million passengers last year on 70 aircraft operating to 80 different routes. They brought in more than £50 million in revenue for BA through additional passenger "feed" and straight franchise payments.

Phone company's profit paves way

Optus on line for float

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

OPTUS, Australia's second phone operator in which Cable and Wireless holds a 24.5 per cent stake, paved the way for its planned \$1.5 billion (£750 million) stock market float yesterday with its first full-year profit of \$460 million.

The company, which began as a long-distance operator four years ago and last year made a \$17 million loss, also confirmed that the float would take place before the end of the year with the issue of up to 800 million shares.

Zygmunt Switkowski, chief executive, said: "After a tre-

mendous effort during its first few years, Optus is now in a very strong position to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the rapidly growing telecommunications industry. We have a strong and loyal customer base, a strong brand franchise, and robust market shares."

Optus plans to sell more than a third of the company through the float after the decision of Mayne Nickless, which holds 25 per cent, to include its stake in the float instead of selling it to a sole buyer. British Telecom is un-

derstood to have been one of four companies interested in buying the stake.

Optus had planned to float only 10 per cent of its shares to put a value on the group, which analysts now estimate could be up to \$55 billion. Total revenues rose 36 per cent to \$1.9 billion for the year to June 1996, with long-distance revenues rising 34 per cent to \$811 million and Optus's mobile phone revenue 55 per cent ahead at \$705 million. The figures received a warm welcome from analysts.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.06	1.80
Austria Sch	17.19	15.88
Belgium Fr	30.39	40.88
Canada \$	2.22	2.07
Cyprus Cyp	0.747	0.888
Denmark Kr	9.46	8.88
Finland Mk	7.55	6.90
France Fr	8.27	7.82
Germany Dm	2.46	2.25
Greece Dr	383	358
Hong Kong \$	12.86	11.66
Ireland Ir	1.01	0.93
Israel Sh	5.27	4.82
Italy Lit	2462	2307
Japan Yen	182.00	168.00
Malta	0.594	0.589
Netherlands Gld	2.732	2.502
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.17
Norway Kr	10.53	8.73
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	7.58	6.78
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	137500	135000
USA \$	1.853	1.828

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

□ Culture changes threaten tobacco sector □ Regulation has some way to go □ Fund managers contemplate Labour in power

A future of ashtrays and dog-ends

AS BEFFITS its name, Imperial Tobacco has spent the past century at war with our former colonies. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. The company was formed at the turn of the century in a desperate attempt by the British tobacco trade to fend off the unwanted attentions of the American Tobacco Company.

The famous names of the British tobacco industry, Messrs Wills, Player, Lambert and Butler, realised that only by pulling together could they see off the financial might of James "Buck" Duke, a Lord Hanson of his day, whose favoured takeover tactic was to turn up unannounced at a factory and explain why the company could not survive a bout of ATC price-cutting.

Imperial's defensive tactics worked. Mr Duke retreated home after receiving a jolly good hiding in the UK. The two companies signed an uneasy peace treaty, effectively withdrawing from each other's markets and a third firm, British American Tobacco, took control of exports of Imperial brands.

After 90 years of an increasingly fragile peace the about-to-be-independent Imperial is about to find itself at war again with America on two fronts. Imperial will have to take on the might of the big American tobacco companies and BAT, as it goes in

search of new markets to help wean itself off the UK. Imperial generates about 87 per cent of its profits in the UK, but the market here is in rapid decline, with the tax and regulatory environment destined only to become stricter. As befits a graduate of the Hanson school, the management have all the number-crunching skills and should be able to find some more cost-savings and productivity gains to make its market share go that bit further.

The company has also made some successful entries into new markets — including winning a 4 per cent share of the American blend market in France with a new product. But Imperial lacks real global presence, let alone a world renowned brand. For all its excited talk of the vast untapped markets in the East, the company may find itself struggling in the scramble to find new customers outside of the declining Western markets.

But it is the fallout from the anti-smoking war being waged in the US that could have a more lasting negative effect. Imperial has no presence in the US and has no plans to enter the market.

Yet it still felt necessary to devote a lengthy passage in its listing document to the potential legal and regulatory hazards inherent in the tobacco industry.

Imperial's opinion that it is unlikely to lose any of its legal cases in the UK is probably correct. But the gloom surrounding tobacco stocks in the markets increasingly has little to do with legal facts or the current lull in new regulations in Europe. The anti-smoking battle is ultimately about culture not courts, and, in spite of the promise of new markets, it is hard to believe that all the tobacco companies have an independent long-term future.

New angst for old at Lloyd's

KNOWING Lloyd's, expect an imminent intervention by Michael Howard. The main impact of Lloyd's rescue plan going through will be to free thousands of names at last from what looked like a financial life sentence. Has Mr Howard been informed? Not that many will jump for joy at finally being

PENNINGTON



fleeced and released. But losing your wool once and for all is better than being condemned to wander the earth with open syndicates round your neck to remind you of your own and others' folly.

The Home Secretary played a minor part in the downfall of the old Lloyd's when he piloted his generally admirable Financial Services Act through Parliament. He left Lloyd's out. Appalling conflicts of interest continued, as they do to this day.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Treasury are now more relevant. Barring further American legal appeals, landslide votes on both sides of the Atlantic for the £3.2 billion settlement pave the way for past

nasties to be swept up in Equitas, the all-purpose reinsurance dustbin. But Equitas still has to be approved by the DTI to establish Lloyd's solvency. That solvency, based on much lower Equitas premiums than first thought, must also be maintained.

Passing of the rescue plan will unleash a frenzy of corporate activity. Incorporation of agency partnerships helped to destroy the old Lloyd's. Mergers may be as vital now to create firms that can offer efficient, rule-observing service at much lower cost.

Professionals will increasingly deal with corporate underwriters who do not enjoy the tax and operational benefits of sole traders. Costs must be cut and Lloyd's will cede business as well as jobs. It should find new market niches but may also fall under outside control.

Regulation also has a long way to go. Future names, mostly super-rich or insiders, will demand a better deal, not least to ease conflicts with corporate capital. New investors, and traders in capacity, need the same protection as in other markets. Individual authorisation should

cull many. Maybe Lloyd's can then focus on natural disasters, which it handles so much better than those of its own making.

The City's new bogeyman

JUST as children get more frightened of bogeymen as autumn evenings draw in so too are fund managers becoming a little uneasy about the prospects of a Labour government.

Until yesterday the chief bogeyman was Alistair Darling, who as Labour's City frontbench spokesman put the fear of excessive regulation and poverty into City types. Now Mike O'Brien takes on the mantle, and memories of his persistent but incisive questioning on the Treasury Select Committee will be worrying regulators and practitioners alike as the election looms.

A solicitor by profession, O'Brien is not quite the New Danger that Darling was perceived to be by fund managers worried that he was going to tear up the regulatory rulebooks and start again with an SEC-style

statutory system. Images of Ivan Boesky on his way to jail upset City insiders, who feel that the self-regulatory system in Britain is already a tad too tight.

On top of that, there is the worry of Labour's plans for an easier, simpler, cheaper pensions system giving little scope for high commissions and hoodwinking customers.

It is not quite the same as the nervousness back in 1987 when wiser, older City voices gave warnings that, after more than a decade of rising markets, young fund managers would not be able to cope with a bear market. But after 16 years of Conservative rule, many have no experience of dealing with a Labour government. Now the siren voices are putting their own money beyond the reach of the taxman and the New Danger.

Strong question

IT WAS inevitable that Sears would end up closing the majority of the shoe shops it sold to Stephen Hinchliffe. But what of Liam Strong? The Sears chief executive has pinned his reputation on sorting out the beleaguered British Shoe Corporation. His chairman Bob Reid has publicly defended him twice. When Sears reveals a half-year loss, will Reid be able to defend Strong a third time?

Unigate sells and leaves America

Unigate, the milk and fresh foods group, has completed its withdrawal from the US with the sale of its Taco Bueno chain of fast-food Mexican restaurants for \$42 million. The larger part of the American restaurant business, the Black-eyed Pea diners, were sold in June for \$42 million.

Unigate is selling Casa Bonita, the subsidiary that owns the Taco Bueno business, to CKE Restaurants, a US quoted company.

Casa Bonita has 109 Taco Bueno restaurants in Texas and Oklahoma. It made operating profits of \$4.6 million in the year to March 1996. Unigate said the sale left the group totally focused on its European food and distribution businesses.

Internet stake

Megalomedia, the fast-growing media group headed by Maurice Saatchi, is paying £201,250 for an 11 per cent stake in Webmedia Group, a UK-based Internet company. The deal will help Megalomedia expand into new media alongside Frametone, the recently acquired film and video-technology company.

Tag 'float'

TAG Heuer International, the Swiss-based watch-maker, has appointed Salomon Brothers and SBC Warburg to advise on a possible flotation. The company has been revitalised in the past seven years, under a team led by Christian Virois, chief executive officer.

Gencor adds

Gencor, the South African mining group, has lifted its stake in Alusaf, the aluminium smelter, to 73 per cent after the preference share issue. Gencor purchased the stake from South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation.

Cash raiser

Pemberstone, the investment and property management company, has successfully completed its placing and open offer, raising £7.1 million to pay off borrowings and fund new acquisitions.

FKI buys

FKI is buying Nuova Marelli Motor, an Italian maker of low voltage electric motors and alternators, for £35 million in cash. FKI will also assume debt of £17.5 million.

Dunlop deal

Dunlop Slazenger Group, the international sports equipment company, is buying the Dunlop Slazenger division of BKT Dunlop in South Africa for £3.3 million.

Rothschild initiates review of structure

BY JASON NISSE

NM ROTHSCCHILD, the family-controlled merchant bank rocked by the suicide of Amschel Rothschild last month, is to shake up its senior management structure. One of the three non-family members who form the management committee is to leave the bank, another is likely to reduce his role and a recently appointed director from outside the bank is to join the management committee.

In addition, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the bank's chairman, has started a review of how the bank is run which could mean a shake-up of its international structure and its relationship with other banks controlled by the Rothschild family.

The first signs of the changes are the imminent departure of Bernie Myers, who, with corporate financiers Russell Edey and Tony Alt, sits on the management committee which advises Sir Evelyn on the running of the bank.

Mr Myers, who has the title of managing director and has worked with Sir Evelyn for more than 20 years, is to leave in October, but will be retained by Rothschild as a consultant.

Mr Myers is to be replaced on the committee by Tony Chapman, a lawyer from the City firm of Freshfields who joined the bank only at the beginning of this year.

Mr Chapman is said by insiders to have the ear of Sir Evelyn, having been his personal legal adviser for many years, and now occupies the office directly opposite Sir Evelyn on the fourth floor of Rothschild's headquarters in the City.

It is also expected that Mr Edey will reduce his role at the bank and may leave the executive committee. He is the joint managing director of corporate finance and is largely in charge of international relations.

There had been suggestions that Mr Edey might leave the bank, but it is believed that he is to be given a more ambassadorial role, relieving him of administrative functions and

putting him in charge of marketing for the bank.

Sir Evelyn is now looking at fresh ways of organising the bank so that a structure is in place that will guarantee that the family remains in control of the 190-year-old institution.

David de Rothschild, who comes from the French arm of the family, has been seen as the most likely successor to Sir Evelyn, who is 64. However, in the wake of the death of Amschel Rothschild, who was the most senior member of the English family after Sir Evelyn, close friends of Sir Evelyn now expect him to remain in charge for a further decade to bring his sons into the business.

Many in the City have been pressing Sir Evelyn to bring in an outside chief executive to run the business, rather as Sir Michael Richardson developed the bank in the early 1980s.

However, Sir Evelyn appears reluctant to cede any control and, although Mr Chapman is an outsider, he is not the senior merchant banker that many feel that Rothschild needs to take it forward.

Johnston Press up to £12m after sale

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

JOHNSTON PRESS, the regional newspaper publisher and printing group, made pre-tax profits of £12.6 million in the half year to June 30, up from £8.1 million a year before.

The figure was flattered by a net exceptional gain of £2.9 million relating to the sale of the *Bury Times* to Newsquest in April. Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profit rose by 10 per cent, from £8.8 million to £9.7 million.

The results do not take into account Johnston's £205 million purchase of Emap's regional newspaper interests,



Provident Financial's John van Kuffeler, left, and Howard Bell have seen market share fall

Firecrest stake sold

SHARES in Firecrest, the AIM-listed marketing group, rose from 54p to 59p yesterday after an announcement that Camelot Corporation, its largest external shareholder, has sold its 10½ per cent stake (Fraser Nelson writes).

The two companies first collaborated on the Digiphone, which Camelot makes and Firecrest distributes. Camelot, now part of the AIM-listed company Meteor, gained the stake as part-payment for the distribution rights.

Firecrest provides advertising and direct marketing services and markets mobile telephones.

Cortworth delivers record results

BY OLIVER AUGUST

CORTWORTH, the specialist engineering group that floated last December, yesterday announced record pre-tax profits.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £5 million (£2.3 million). Earnings per share increased 13 per cent to 7.1p and the interim dividend was set at 2.1p.

Roger Pinnington, the chairman, said: "Throughout the group, organic growth continues to be encouraged with quality customer service and new product development. Acquisitions will play a

major role in our future expansion, but sensible pricing for suitable acquisitions as much as availability will determine the timing and the pace of such developments."

Mr Pinnington said that capital restructuring at the time of the flotation distorted balance sheet comparisons with June 30, 1995.

The early elimination of a £5 million bank overdraft leaves the company unencumbered with £6.6 million of bank and cash balances at June 30, 1996, in spite of an 85 per cent increase in capital expenditure.

Kalon hurt by French politics

BY FRASER NELSON

FRENCH employment policy has held back Kalon, the paint company taken to court by unions over its plan to axe 300 jobs at Euridex, its French subsidiary.

Kalon's restructuring programme, designed to bed down last year's £330 million acquisition of Euridex, has been challenged under legislation stemming from the social chapter. The company must satisfy the courts that it has exhausted every other means of cutting costs.

The French Government delivered a second blow by cutting back on painting council houses to reduce public spending.

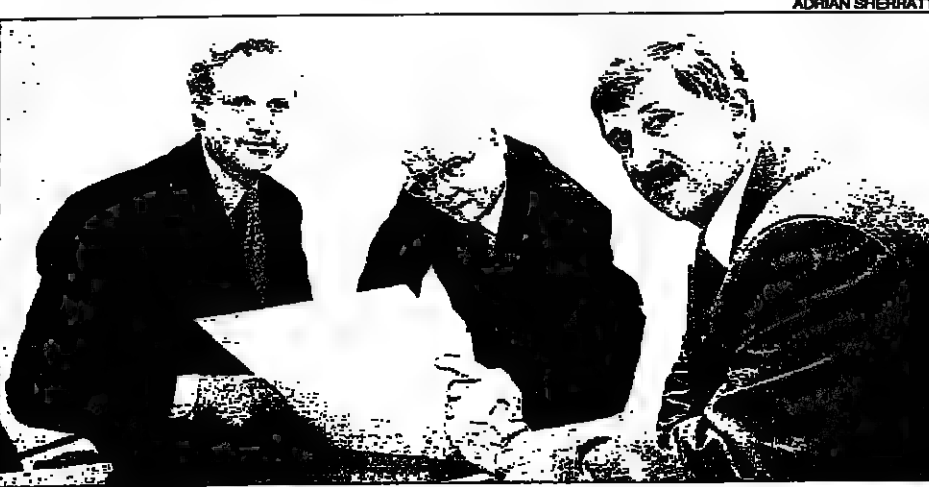
Returning results for the six months to June 30, Mike Hennessy, managing director, said: "There was no way we could have foreseen this political situation when we bought Euridex last year. But our French operations now have a considerable upside, which we should begin to see when the economy begins to recover."

Pre-tax profits rose from £11.6 million to £19.6 million, but earnings fell from 4.68p a share to 3.7p. An interim dividend of 1.7p (1.6p) will be paid on October 9.

Kalon will learn on September 13 whether the first phase of its French restructuring programme has been approved.

Housing pick-up heats Stoves profits by 42%

BY PAUL DURMAN



Sean O'Connor, chairman, left, John Crathorne and Jim Bates, finance director

STOVES, the fast-growing cooker manufacturer, is starting to feel the benefit of the pick-up in the housing market.

John Crathorne, chief executive, believes the stimulus will help the UK cooker market to grow 5-6 per cent this year, bringing sales of around £340 million. Moving home often prompts the purchase of a new cooker.

Stoves reported strong second-half results, increasing pre-tax profits for the year ending in May by 42 per cent to £4.3 million. Sales rose 29 per cent to £63 million. This means Stoves, which came to

market in June, has tripled in size in the past five years.

The company said the new financial year had begun well, with sales showing considerable growth on last year, when the first half was hit by the hot summer and higher raw material prices. Stoves attributes its success in winning market share to its flexible manufacturing methods, which allow it to keep stocks low and to respond quickly to new orders and changing demands.

Stoves hopes that the combination of its flexibility and the phasing out of the last of its old manufacturing technology will enable it to increase profit

margins. It achieved margins of 8 per cent in the second half, but for the year as a whole margins were marginally lower at just below 7 per cent.

Stoves is well advanced with plans to build up its overseas sales, particularly in France and Germany. Mr Crathorne said the company has still to decide whether to make an overseas acquisition.

A final dividend of 3.5p makes a total of 5.2p. Stoves said this represented a 15 per cent rise on the dividend that it would have paid if it had been listed for its 1994-95 year.

Tempos, page 28

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bears scurry for cover amid brokers' warnings

STOCK market bears scurried for cover as the equity market resumed its record-breaking run, with prices being squeezed steadily higher.

But brokers were telling private clients last night not to chase the market any higher.

The FT-SE 100 index grew in confidence after a cautious start before ending just below its best of the day with a rise of 13.0 points at a new closing high of 3,918.7. The previous best of 3,907.5 was reached last week.

Confirmation that the Bank of England had successfully got its latest gilt auction away combined with expected trade figures to boost City confidence.

But some of the moves, particularly among leading shares, owed more to an absence of sellers and persistent stock shortages than genuine retail demand.

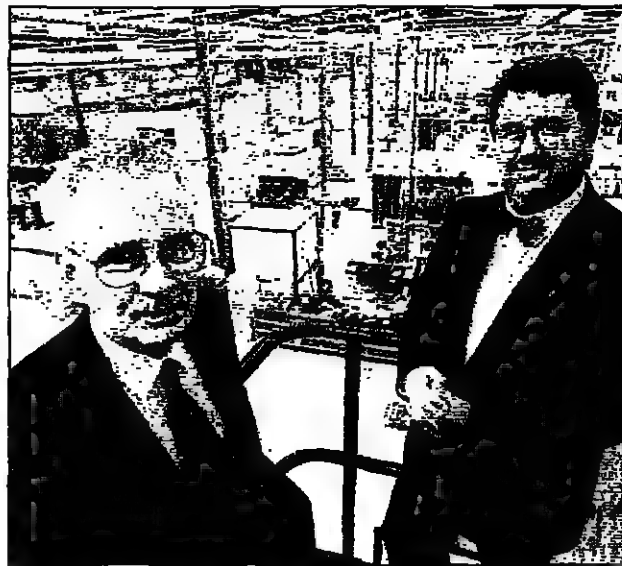
This was clearly reflected among turnover levels, where at the end of business only 623 million shares had changed hands. In these sort of conditions, it is easy for private investors to find themselves sitting on hefty losses in a short space of time.

Lloyds Abbey became the latest focus of attention for the speculators as the price soared 32p to 593p on suggestions that the mighty Prudential might choose to bid. Prudential is sitting on more than £2 billion in cash after this week's sale of Mercantile & General, its reinsurance subsidiary.

The Woolwich Building Society, which is looking to float on the stock market, is also seen as a target for the Prudential, 2p harder at 440p. The rise in the Lloyds Abbey share price was also good for Lloyds TSB, up 8p at 380 1/2p.

Revised talk of a takeover boosted Zeeva, which ended 17p dearer at £15.20 on turnover of less than a million shares. Persistent claims that EMI, which was recently demerged, will eventually be bid for was good for its shares, which rose 10p to £14.25. However, it seems more likely that the rise is down to institutional investors continuing to increase their weighting in the stock.

Stock shortages were reckoned to be behind the rise in United News & Media, publisher of the Daily Express, which ended the day 17p better at 722 1/2p after recent disposals. Just 1.4 million had traded by the close. First-time



Colin Billet, left, and Brian Thompson saw Domnick Hunter shares rise on the back of improved profits

dealings in Dairy Crest, the dairy products producer, got off to a flying start with the help of strong institutional support. Placed at 155p, the price started at 182p and quickly climbed to a peak of 197p before ending the session at 196 1/2p, a premium of 4 1/2p. Turnover reached almost 20 million as institutional investors attempted to snap up

October. Shareholders have been promised that Imperial Tobacco will pursue a liberal dividend policy. BZW has thrown its weight behind the moves by Hanson and is sticking with its top of the range valuation for the shares. This estimates that the sum of the parts for Hanson amounts to 193p, purely on trading grounds alone. James Ritchie,

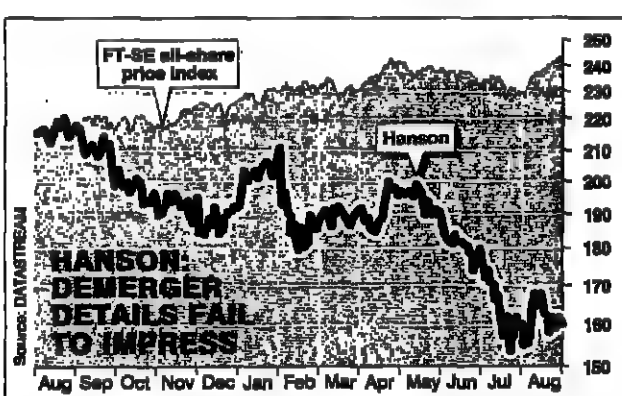
Further reflection of this week's £200 million sale of its 50 per cent stake in the Carlsberg-Tetley joint venture to Bass has focused attention back on Allied Domecq, up 11p at 464 1/2p. Brokers say the sale should enhance earnings almost straight away. Kleinwort Benson has moved from a "hold" to a "buy".

more shares after the bulk of the issue had been offered to milk producers. Of the 70 million shares offered to the farmers, almost 90 per cent took up the offer rather than accept a cash alternative.

Hanson slipped 1p to 161p after outlining further details of its proposed merger that begins with Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals in

of BZW, said it was worth remembering that all four units had received a bid approach.

WH Smith fell 3 1/2p to 509 1/2p after announcing its first losses for more than 200 years. Pre-tax profits were already down from £15.2 million to £9.8 million before the group was hit by provisions totalling £293 million.



HANSON DEMERGER DETAILS FAIL TO IMPRESS

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leaving an overall deficit of £194.7 million.

The outcome was much as analysts had been led to believe by the group's trading update in June that signalled huge write-offs relating to restructuring and the sale of its stake in Do-It-All. Sales were described as patchy although some brokers now see WH Smith as a recovery play.

Provident Financial rose 10p to 462p after half-year figures showed pre-tax profits of £6.4 million up at £47.5 million.

A useful improvement in half-year pre-tax profits at Domnick Hunter of £700,000 to £4.2 million was rewarded with a rise of 3p to 400 1/2p. Brian Thompson is splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive. He will remain chairman while Colin Billet is appointed chief executive.

A "for sale" sign appears to have gone up at First Information, the CD Rom group, where the price plunged 67p to 100p on the news that it was seeking an investor to maintain its development programme. The announcement was accompanied by news of a significant drop in sales.

Shares of Hanover International returned from suspension 4 1/2p higher at 130p. The group has just completed the acquisition of six hotels financed by a placing and open offer at 125p.

GLT-EDGED: Investors breathed a sigh of relief on learning that the latest auction, £2.5 billion of Treasury 7 1/2 per cent 2000, had been comfortably absorbed after being 2.69 times subscribed. This, combined with a steady trend among US Treasury Bonds, encouraged investors in London to begin picking up stock.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt hardened £1 to £107 1/4 as investors continued to switch into the December series. This helped to swell turnover in the September series to 82,000 contracts. At the long end, Treasury 5 per cent 2002 firmed a tick to £97 1/2, while in shorts, Treasury 7 1/2 per cent 1998 closed all square.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were slightly higher in a sluggish session that saw much of the activity limited to a few individual issues. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 11.84 points to 5,723.11.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5723.11 (+11.84)
S&P Composite	666.79 (+0.39)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20708.81 (+200.46)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11379.49 (+40.56)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	563.38 (+1.97)
Sydney:	
AO	2284.2 (+21.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2563.16 (+4.32)
Singapore:	
Strait	2199.88 (+11.57)
Brussels:	
General	924.65 (+20.89)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2002.40 (+15.09)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	777.80 (+0.40)

London:	
FT 30	3838.9 (+3.6)
FT 100	3918.7 (+13.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	4437.8 (+9.5)
FTSE-A 250	1980.5 (+6.0)
FT-SE Eurozone 100	1660.30 (+3.0)
FT A All-share	1926.24 (+6.0)
FT Non Financials	2029.54 (+3.9)
FT Financials	1133.54 (+0.1)
FT Govt Sec	92.79 (+0.3)
Banglades	31.57
US Dollar	207.71 (+0.08)
US\$	1.5995 (+0.0008)
German Mark	2.3015 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	85.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)	
£/ECU	1.2095
1 £/DM	1.6062
RPI	152.4 Jul (2.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPI-X	151.2 Jul (2.2%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	65	...
Chemical Dgn Hlg	100	...
Dairy Crest Gp	196	...
Dentmaster Hldgs	4	...
Egypt Trust	817	...
Eleven Retail	37	...
Freemove	47	...
Gabriel Trust (16)	19	...
Gall Thomson Env	59	...
Hambros Smir	65	...
Home Govt	97	...
Life Numbers	13	...
Life Numbers Ws	5	...
Lon & Edin Pubs	15	...
Pemberton Ws	6	...
Schroder Em C C	372	...
Schroder Em C Ws	36	...
Schroder Em C	91	...
Selector	68	...
Somerville (145)	158	...
St James Place Cpl	88	...
Value Realisation	70	...
Walker, Crisp, Widdie	70	...
West 175 Enter	130	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bath Press n/p (14)	2	...
Inspect Gp n/p (180)	28	...
Scot Power n/p (250)	56	...
Stagecoach n/p (410)	97	...
Trafford n/p (290)	32	...
Wyko Group n/p (123)	12	...

MAJOR CHANGES

FINES:	
Cutlery	286p (+9p)
Hambros	287p (+9p)
Antologas	313p (+8p)
CRH	849p (+18p)
Chorecra	407p (+10p)
Whitman	495p (+10p)
BTG	1755p (+85p)
FALLS:	
Euro Leisure	194p (-11p)
REXAM	384p (-10p)
Bloomsbury Int	442p (-8p)
Telspec	425p (-7p)
DCS Gp	192p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Dismal reading matter

THERE is a disturbing similarity between WH Smith and Kingfisher. Walk down any high street and you will pass both a branch of the eponymous newsgroup and a Woolworth. Historic retail brands ought to have some value, but retailing is a cruel business. Today, shoppers are less creatures of habit than opportunists, leaving WH Smith and Kingfisher struggling to persuade jaded consumers to walk into their stores and buy.

WH Smith has initially done all the right things: slim down the head office, increase managerial accountability, shed surplus administrative staff. That will reduce the cost base by an initial £5 million, with more to come. However, retrenchment is easy: what WH Smith needs to do is not to shrink but to grow. It needs to offer a reason to buy

newspapers, books and records at WH Smith rather than Sainsbury, Dillons or HMV.

British retailing is polarising between efficient discounters with own-brand goods and specialists boasting a wide product range. But WH Smith is positioned in neither camp. It is a convenience store, burdened with high rents in its high street locations but at the same time competing on price with discounters. So far the strategy looks confused. It has sharply reduced stock, a move that will improve cash flow but will do little to entice shoppers. Loyalty cards and children's sections are tired ideas borrowed from others.

If WH Smith cannot stock the range that would make it essential to its customers, it must offer unbeatable prices. That has serious implications, but avoiding the issue is not an option.

Provident Financial

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL lends money to the 25 per cent of the population who cannot persuade the clearing banks to give them an overdraft. However, credit collection booms in times of economic hardship and Provident's business has grown at 10 per cent while its costs have risen by just 3 per cent.

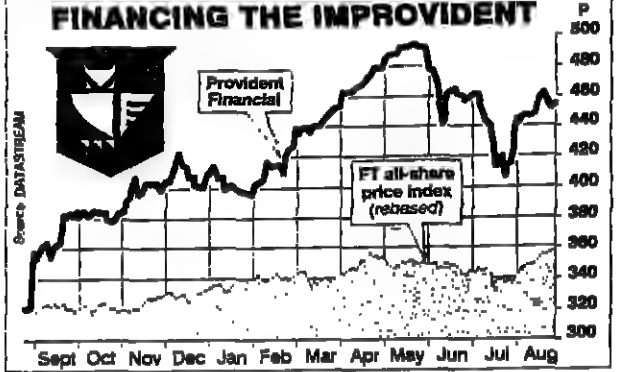
Historically, credit collection has been robust in both good times and bad. During the lean years customers borrow small amounts to buy essentials. When salaries and job prospects improve they seek bigger loans to replace large household items.

Provident reckons the barriers to entry are too high to entice clearing banks and insurers on to its patch. It

employs more than 10,000 agents who collect interest from their neighbours door-to-door. Falling unemployment will not necessarily cause it to lose business to more conventional lenders. The economy is creating more casual work than the full-time jobs that make attractive customers for banks.

However, Provident's im-

pressive 40 per cent return on collected credit before tax might tempt a bank or insurer into launching a bid. A market of 12 million people hitherto ignored by conventional financial services must offer some opportunities and might appeal to a more adventurous group such as Abbey National.



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P&O

AS THEY battle for passengers at Dover and Calais, staff at P&O Ferries and Stena must worry what the future holds as talks get under way between the two companies. The bloodletting revealed yesterday by Stena - the ferry line lost \$51 million in the first half and expects losses of \$68 million for the full year - bodes ill for P&O and increases the urgency to get a deal agreed in time for next summer.

The Government has given the nod to talks between the two companies which between them account for almost half of the short-haul Channel traffic. Eurotunnel has just under 40 per cent, with Sea France and other ferries sharing the rest. Logically, there is little reason to permit pooling between Stena and P&O while opposing a merger. Pooling would allow the two larger operators to fix fares, share a timetable and reduce capaci-

ty, the principal anti-competitive benefits of a merger.

But even pooling would have to get past the OFT, probably the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and, no doubt, Brussels. Stena would want a say. If the ferry operators are expecting a smooth ride on the waves, they have only to glance upwards to notice the tangled vapour trails left by British Airways as it attempts to sew up the North Atlantic market.

Stoves

STOVES is that rare breed: a successful British company making consumer products. Since it was bought out from Yale & Valer in 1989, the cooker company has fought off bigger competitors, increasing sales in a flat market from £17 million to £63 million. Stoves now claims 16 per cent of the UK cooker market and hopes to reach 18 per cent this year.

How far can it go? Re-

edy in the housing market will certainly help, but Stoves also hopes to raise profit margins from the present 7 per cent. It sets great store by its manufacturing methods, which allow it to produce a wide range of cookers with a menu of different features.

But Stoves cannot escape the problem of price competition. As it grows, the company will soon be fighting for the limited number of customers who buy up-market cookers. That suggests price erosion and a drift down market. Meanwhile, rivals may seek to copy some of its tricks. The other avenue for growth is Europe, possibly by acquisition. That prospect is, at best, uncertain.

Still, Stoves should be able to raise its profits by 35 per cent this year, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 17.5 times earnings. While not too demanding, the rating looks high enough for now.

Edited by CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Cocoa	
Sep	1094.00
Oct	1094.00
Nov	1094.00
Dec	1094.00
Jan	1094.00
Feb	1094.00
Mar	1094.00
Apr	1094.00
May	1094.00
Jun	1094.00
Jul	1094.00
Aug	1094.00

Robusta Coffee	
Sep	1094.00
Oct	1094.00
Nov	1094.00
Dec	1094.00
Jan	1094.00
Feb	1094.00
Mar	1094.00
Apr	1094.00
May	1094.00
Jun	1094.00
Jul	1094.00
Aug	1094.00

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

It has to be Tunbridge

TUNBRIDGE WELLS is being touted as the true blue stronghold that may tickle Asda boss Archie Norman's political taste-buds. Now that Norman will have more time on his hands, after announcing he will stand down as chief executive of the supermarket chain, the Tunbridge Wells constituency must look welcoming. The seat fell vacant six weeks ago when Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, decided to step down, and is one of a handful still without a Tory candidate. Out of 180 applicants, a candidate is expected to be placed before the end of next month. There are, however, no Asda stores in Tunbridge Wells.

SIR David Money-Coutts, who will stand down as M&G's non-executive chairman next January, is planning to write his autobiography. As soon as David Morgan steps into his shoes, Sir David will put pen to paper; he wants to share his life at the family bank and his love of almshouses with his burgeoning family.

Entente cordiale

GILLIAN SHEPHERD, the Education and Employment Secretary, will tomorrow become the first British minister to meet his or her French opposite number in their local constituency, as opposed to political Paris. French politicians trying to cut their social costs are increasingly keen to listen to what the Government claims is Britain's success story over jobs, and Shepherd — a fluent French speaker — will detail Britain's performance in talks at Le Puy, with Jacques Barrot, France's labour minister.



Smokescreen

AS IMPERIAL Tobacco is set to resume its life as an independent company after its demerger from Hanson, the directors of Enlightened Tobacco, which brought us "Death Cigarettes", are finalising a programme to lobby the European Commission. Last summer the company was banned from operating a scheme that lets smokers in Britain buy and import cigarettes from Luxembourg, without paying the UK's high rates of duty. Troubled by Enlightened's trick, Imperial Tobacco commissioned a report from Coopers & Lybrand, which states that the tax rate could, if legal, take 40 per cent of the market, and 90 per cent in the long term, at fearful cost to the Exchequer. Strange — I can't see any reference to the report in the demerger details.

Switched on Fry

ANTHONY FRY, BZW's new corporate finance recruit, is showing his colleagues why he's seen as a star in the firmament of media finance. When Fry was invited to speak at the Edinburgh International Television Festival on the privatisation of Channel 4, there was much speculation as to whether Channel 4's Michael Grade, would also hold forth at the session. "Michael won't give up the chance to air his views," opined Fry, and offered to put his money where his mouth was. Yesterday he was back in BZW's offices, collecting his winnings.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH



Bankers are short-changing people on jobs and growth

The bond market
Jeremiahs should
stop exaggerating
the threat posed
by inflation

The world's leading central bankers convene today for their annual jolly in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Their theme is "achieving price stability". How predictable and how inappropriate.

If the publication of Japan's Tankan survey of business confidence yesterday told us anything, it is that the achievement of growth is a far more testing challenge at the moment than fighting inflation.

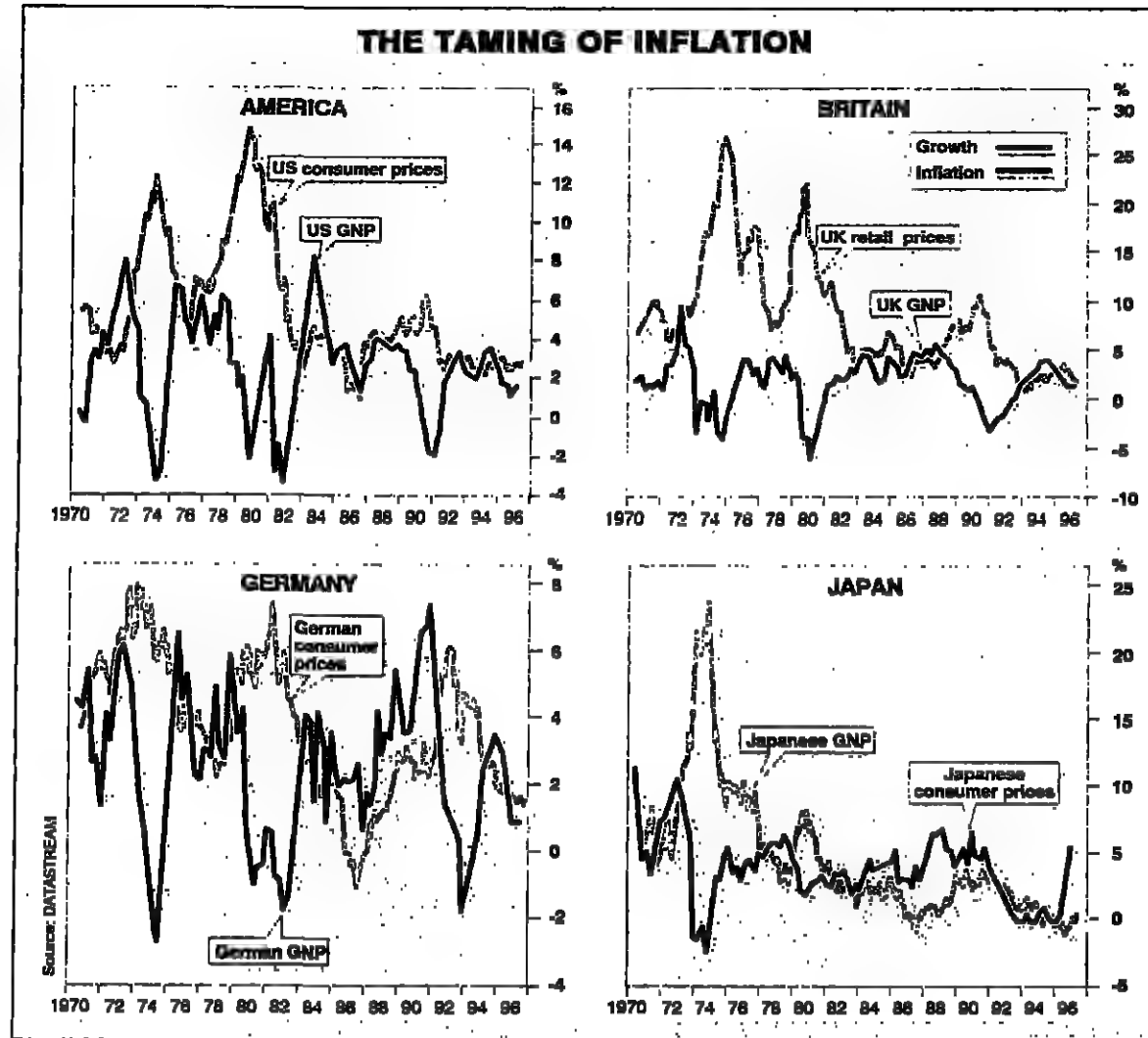
Reuters reported that Japanese financial markets were "stunned" by news that the Tankan survey's key measure of business optimism had fallen. Most economists surveyed by the news service had expected a rise, as had seven out of 15 think-tanks. A second useful point is illustrated — that the financial markets and many economists do not understand the current behaviour of the world economy.

The current global upswing has constantly surprised in two ways. Growth has taken longer to lift off in many countries than most observers expected and, once growth is well established and even deemed to be above-trend, there has scarcely been a hint of price pressures. This year, markets have predicted interest rate rises in America, Britain, Germany and Japan. They have fallen in Germany and Britain and stayed on hold in the US. The latest Tankan survey should now finally put to rest any thought of higher rates in Japan.

Nothing can ever be irrevocably proved in economics, but there does seem to be mounting evidence in the current cycle that economies can grow faster and for longer without igniting inflation. Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Bank and author of *The Death of Inflation: Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era*, believes that the case is virtually proven in America, in recovery for five years with no signs of higher inflation, and almost proven in Britain, in recovery for four and expecting inflation to fall further.

The proposition is far harder to prove in Europe, not least because most of the continent is engaged in cutting deficits to an astonishingly tight timetable dictated by the Maastricht Treaty and the 1999 deadline for monetary union. In Japan, the after-shocks of the violent bursting of the 1980s asset price bubble are still reverberating and any longer-range economic analysis is difficult. But we do know that the Japanese economy has had four years with virtually no growth in spite of repeated fiscal packages to stimulate the economy and a depreciation in the yen. After yesterday's news, the surge in growth in the first quarter must be an aberration.

For all the accumulating evidence that the world really might have changed, some attitudes remain die-hard. Take the Bank of England. In its last *Inflation Report*, there was a long passage describing reforms to the labour market which had made it more flexible. The Bank floated the possibility that the economy may now be able to grow faster and longer, and create more jobs, before igniting inflation. But Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said that the evidence was still not conclusive enough to factor it



into inflation forecasting. This is caution to a fault, stemming partly from the Bank's narrow government-imposed remit to look only at inflation and not at the general well-being of the economy. Its role thus defined, it is not the Bank's job to take risks. And so it is that the Bank advocates raising interest rates at a time when manufacturing investment, according to last Friday's figures, fell for the third successive quarter to stand 4.5 per cent lower than a year ago. The Chancellor's pragmatism (and instinct for re-election) provides the necessary balance.

The situation in America is more sensible. The Fed, which has a dual role to care for both inflation and growth, is prepared — courtesy of the excellent brand of pragmatism and open-mindedness embodied in Alan Greenspan, its chairman — to acknowledge the possibility that the economy's sustainable growth rate may have risen. Even after the creation of millions of new jobs and an investment boom, Mr Greenspan is prepared to hold fire on rates, against the wishes of the inflation paranoiacs in the Treasury bond market, until he sees a real reason to raise them. Even the Bundesbank, which "shocked" markets with last week's aggressive 30 basis point repo cut, interprets M3 money supply flexibly and uses instinct to interpret the real economy.

Mr Bootle advocates policymakers using their eyes and ears, creeping along and seeing what happens, an approach quite at odds with that of the Bank of England. "The Bank proceeds on the assumption that there are warning signals which must be heeded and then a long, black tunnel of ignorance. At the end of two years, up pop the inflationary results," he said. But it is not necessarily the case that a single opportunity presents itself to take the right policy decision and, if that moment is not seized, dire conse-

quences follow. Apart from anything else, it is probably true that the lag between interest rate changes and their effect on the economy has shortened considerably. In the past, this was assumed to be 18 months to two years — hence the Bank's two-year-ahead approach to forecasting inflation.

As central bankers meet in Jackson Hole, there is some evidence that they are beginning to realise that inflation may not be the threat that it was. The Fed and Bundesbank decisions can both be seen in that light. And yet the inflation Jeremiahs warn darkly that the banks are in danger of "falling behind the curve", leaving it too late, becoming complacent just when inflation is about to rear up again.

We must fervently hope that the discussions dismiss such talk. If central bankers continue to keep monetary policy pre-emptively tighter than necessary, at a time when budget deficits around the world are being cut, the proposition that inflation is dead, dormant, temporarily tamed, will not be tested because economies will not be allowed to grow enough. By continually wringing their hands over inflation, central bankers risk short-changing the world quite unnecessarily on growth, jobs and living standards.

If anything, the evidence is of intensifying price competition, an exponential increase in disinflation. BBC Radio yesterday carried an item examining what was described as the demise of the East Asian miracle as the Tigers fight ever more viciously among themselves for business. Global competition has become one of those impenetrable clichés used by politicians and economists, but not even those paid to analyse such things have woken up to its sweep and significance. Financial markets are still pitching bond yields far higher than they probably ought because they are

stuck in an old mind-set. Central bankers continue to be obsessed with the demand side. In Britain, the assumption is that if consumers are flooding the shops again, so inflation will follow. The economic facts — for example, that 19 out of 27 industrialised countries under the umbrella of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have inflation under 3 per cent — are ignored because of fear based on past experience.

It is not just price competition in goods markets that is now so entrenched. There is intense monetary competition, too. By crying wolf about inflation, the bond markets underestimate the total dominance of the economic orthodoxy espoused by the OECD and the International Monetary Fund among others.

We have all been taught that it is wrong to grow through debasing one's currency. Emerging economies are floating their currencies and fighting to hold them at a strong level because they have been told that a weak currency is the clearest symbol of basket case status. A developing country cannot afford to think otherwise. Without the IMF's seal of approval, the economy gets no soft loans, no credit rating from Standard & Poor's and Moody's, no foreign capital to help it grow.

It is hard to imagine rampant inflation when everyone is pursuing the goal of firm currencies. It is also hard to see how the world can fulfil its growth potential. The monetarist orthodoxy has always argued that low inflation in and of itself would unleash the dynamism of the world economy, but the evidence suggests the opposite. Average growth in the industrialised world has been 2 per cent in the Nineties compared with more than 3 per cent in the Eighties and more than 4 per cent in the Seventies. Surely that would be worthy of discussion in Wyoming this weekend?

BUSINESS LETTERS

Damage from windfarms

From Mr Michael Hird

Sir, The executive director of the British Wind Energy Association (Letters, August 22) is concerned that wind energy is losing its privileged position as a perceived environmental benefit. Indeed, more and more schemes are being rejected in the UK and the energy industry itself seems to be losing interest. In the USA, windfarm development has gone into reverse and the Worldwatch Institute in Washington has observed that the industry there has virtually collapsed.

The reason is that people are realising that windfarms create more environmental damage than they save. This was laid out clearly in an excellent article by Simon Jenkins (May 4). Briefly, windfarms are inefficient, they damage wildlife, create unacceptable noise, require huge concrete bases and roads, they also create visual pollution, which damages tourism of the kind these remote areas badly need.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HIRD,
4 Copperfields,
Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire.

Market will do more for electricity prices than MMC

From Mr David Porter

Sir, The regional electricity consumers' committees want the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to break up the UK's two biggest generating companies, National Power and PowerGen ("Consumers want power breakup", *The Times*, August 21).

At the request of the regulator, those two companies have reduced their market share by selling several power stations to a competitor. The alterna-

tive offered to them by the regulator was a reference to the MMC.

Last year, when they each wanted to buy a distribution business, they nevertheless found themselves referred to the MMC. The MMC reported in their favour. Now, despite a marked growth in competition, the consumers' committees want another reference to the MMC.

When all customers are free to choose their electricity sup-

plier, even more competitive pressure will work its way through to producers' prices. This should happen in 1998 or soon afterwards and it makes more sense than dragging two successful generating companies through yet another MMC inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PORTER
Chief Executive,
Association of Electricity Producers, 1st Floor,
41 Whitehall, SW1.

Airline competition

From Mr J. S. Fenwick

Sir, Pennington (August 22) exposed the arrogance of the Civil Aviation Authority towards holidaymakers using cheap charter flights in its suggestion that the public gets what it pays for.

As a businessman who travels throughout the world, it is evident to me that the present air pricing system is nothing further than a carefully organised cartel to exploit business travellers.

If I fly on business in a scheduled aircraft to Basle or Bologna, for example, I am expected to pay close on £500; fares on a reputable charter flight cost around £150 to £200. Why are scheduled flights

over 100 per cent more expensive? I can only conclude that this is because the major airlines have successfully cornered the majority of slots available, and, in so doing, exclude more entrepreneurs from entering the business.

I believe Richard Branson is right in opposing the merger of BA and American Airlines as this is a way of reducing competition to maintain the status quo.

Subtle price fixing in the UK and, for that matter, in the rest of Europe is the norm. It is time that we followed our American friends and indulged in some free competition.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. FENWICK,
New Cottage, Babylon Lane,
Lower Kingswood, Surrey.

Market for milk

From Mr Brian Walsh

Sir, So milk prices are to fall when demand is low. Conversely, milk prices will rise when demand is high.

If the industry is interested, the way to increase the demand is to increase the quality. We are fortunate in that we can purchase locally produced and packaged milk that is fresh and wholesome.

Others, both locally and elsewhere, seem to be satisfied, more or less, with the disgusting white liquid masquerading as milk.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WALSH,
Church Farm,
Garton-on-the-Wolds,
Yorkshire.

End to a tiresome 'boring' story

From the Director-General and Secretary, The Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, Now that it's officially accepted that civil engineers are no longer "Boring" (*City Diary*, August 22) may I just round off the tiresome but humorous story with the real definition of civil engineers.

Brilliant
Original
Resourceful
Intelligent
Numerate and
GREAT

Civil engineers are responsible for the muscle and sinews that hold society together. I challenge anyone to use the term boring again.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER DOBSON,
Director-General and Secretary,
The Institution of Civil Engineers,
One Great George Street,
Westminster, SW1.

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if business letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171-782 5112.

An uphill fight to bring back the good times at WH Smith

Sarah Cunningham looks at moves to revive the fortunes of a household name

WH Smith has been around so long that customers have tended to take for granted its presence on the high street, at train stations and at airports. What is worse, the group has been guilty of taking its customers for granted.

The job of Bill Cockburn, chief executive since January, is to see that both sides' attitudes are changed. It is an uphill task and he admits that it is likely to take four years before the core WH Smith retail operations are fully recovered.

So far, the work he has done on restructuring the group has pushed it into the biggest deficit in its 204-year history, the company confirmed yesterday, with a full-year, pre-tax loss of £195 million after exceptional costs. It took no one by surprise because the company had given a warning about heavy exceptional charges in June. But the amount of time that will probably be needed to sort out Smith's retailing problems is still a worry to some analysts.

The Waterstones and Virgin Our Price subsidiaries both made an operating profit last year. It is the 549 WH Smith shops that are the problem. Their operating profit was down 27 per cent, from £65 million to £47.6 million, and like-for-like sales rose just 2 per cent.

Moreover, while most retailers have said that sales have been healthy this summer, WH Smith group sales since the June 1 year-end have been "patchy". Mr Cockburn said. An unsentimental Scot who worked his way up through the ranks to run the Post Office, Mr Cockburn has already put Smith's through a tumultuous year.

In June, WH Smith paid Boots £63.5 million to take on its 50 per cent share in Do It All, the loss-making DIY chain. It also sold Paperchase to a management buyout team. Other disposals include the sale of WH Smith's business supplies group to Guilbert, the French office supplies company, in April, and, earlier this month, it sold Heathcote Books, the book wholesaling subsidiary, to John Menzies.

It was William who built up the newspaper distribution side. Then, in 1860, the group diversified into running lending libraries on station platforms and by the turn of the 19th century had built up a network of some 1,240 book-stalls. It had become recognisable as the WH Smith of today.

In January, Mr Cockburn was highly critical of WH Smith. There was "a culture of excuses, a culture of complacency and a culture of explaining why we haven't done what we said we would do", he said.

He now says that "the scene is set for a major improvement. We've cleared the decks." If he turns out to be wrong, he has not left himself much room for making excuses.



A drawing of the original WH Smith shop in Mayfair

Here's something the Royal Mail would prefer you didn't know.

E-mail is faster, cheaper and more reliable than post. And it never goes on strike!

With Prestel's lightning fast network (the fastest in the UK), you can instantly send material to anywhere in the world for the price of a local call.

For details call
0990 - 22 33 00
or visit www.prestel.co.uk



prestel on-line

Skeleton in the cupboard

A popular target for the procurement fraudster is the provision of services that have no tangible

❑ Lack of segregation of duties. The fraudster may set up a fictitious company and enter into a contract for the supply of computer software. In a poorly controlled

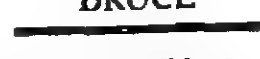
should lay down clear guidelines on the use of friends and relatives as suppliers. The document should also set out clearly the steps that an organisation will take if it finds any member of staff has failed to comply with the guidelines.

Procurement fraud is like any other business risk: it cannot be eradicated, but it can be mitigated with a well-planned campaign.

Scottish angle on principles

THE arguments over whether rules or judgment should be the underlying basis for financial

the importance of independent professional judgment, and the importance of education in equipping professionals for the



He quotes Arthur Morison, a veteran of the greatest of the Scottish firms, Thomson McLoone, writing in 1970. "The power of free and rational argument remains, I am old-fashioned enough to believe, the best road to

Professor Whittington says: "It may be no coincidence that William Baxter and Arthur Morrison were both trained as Scottish chartered accountants. The tradition of the Scottish profession has always been to lay great stress on

The trick, in the end, will be to balance the use of judgment with the use of rules. Good accountants will manage both. As Baxter said in 1953: "A group of men who resign their hard problems to others must eventually give up all claim to be a learned profession." *Essays in Accounting Thought: A Tribute to W. T. Baxter* (Scots ICA, £8).

L-A: Chaierng A; Chau Chi Wal; Evans D N; Evans D; Evans K J; Hong; Isaacs D V; Islam R; Israr; Wan; Li Wing Yin; Li Yuk Pong; Liao Ee Ting; R; Jacques A L; Liu Chia; Li Na; Ng Lye Suan; Ng Mee C; Ng Sarayatu P; Saul M; Saunders C R; The Kh. Ping; Ts
 Chau Ka Fai; Chau Kin Yee A; Chau Evans M R; Evans S G; Evelyn K V; Glia; Iyemori O O; Ming Yui; Ng Miu Kuen; Ng Pak Savani V K; Saw L H; Saw Lee Lee; Man Fu; The Nga Yui

C R: Tse Kii Ping; Tse Kwok on; Tse
Lee: Man Fu; Tse Nga Ying; Tse Siu Ping
er C: Tse So Ha; Tse Wong Pui; Tse
Mei: Yuen Chong M; Tsoi-A-Sue K P; Tsoi
ld M: Mul Fong; Teui Wai Mun; Teui W
field: Yee: Tuan Mustafa Bi Tuan Ma
Seah: Tucker C L; Tucker G S; Tucker H

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Zaiton Binlii Kimin: Zakry Sham
Bin Zainal Buh: Zerpa-Falcon A
J; Zhung Ke: Zhang Qiong: Zhang
Yongyi, Zhao Feng: Zhou Wenwei
Zhang Yiu Wah: Zulli I D: Zuraidatul
Shima Zakaria

Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996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■ FILM 1

Idyllic images and an absorbing narrative mark Bertolucci's "homecoming" in *Stealing Beauty*



■ FILM 2

John Travolta acquires a brain of genius, but *Phenomenon* itself has few bright sparks

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

Boys, a tale of youngsters in distress, mars its good intentions with poor characterisation



■ PROMS

Charles Ives's monumental *Symphony No 4*: literally a resounding success in the Albert Hall

CINEMA: Geoff Brown on Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*, a perfume ad of a film with a dark undercurrent

Beauty revives the lust emperor

Is this a Bernardo Bertolucci film or an advertisement for perfume? It is difficult to judge from some of the images used to sell *Stealing Beauty*. No recent film publicity campaign has made such a fetish of its star's face. And no young player has been given so hard a push as Liv Tyler, the woman in question.

A few months ago she was known only to the unfortunates who saw *Silent Fall* or the luckier viewers of *Heavy*. Now she gazes out from a thousand magazines, loose hair framing oval perfection: an 18-year-old with the world at her feet.

But we should not be so bemused by the film's glossy

Stealing Beauty
Lumiere, 15, 118 mins
Bertolucci's agreeable diversion

Phenomenon
Odeon West End
PG, 123 mins
Your chance to guess John Travolta's IQ

Boys
Virgin Tricadero
15, 86 mins
Fuzzy drama about young lives in the balance

packaging. What would *The Last Emperor* or *The Sheltering Sky* be without their gleaming exotica? Now, though, Bertolucci has returned from his forays into distant lands. He is back in contemporary Italy for the first time in 15 years, since *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man*; and he is back with a most pleasurable film, intimate in scope, a divertimento with a few dark shadows, Chekhov in Chianti country.

One hurdle for some may be what you might call the ogle factor. For both script and camera revel in Tyler's teasing mixture of innocence and sensuality. "You're in need of a ravisher," Jeremy Irons tells this American girl spending a summer in a Tuscan farmhouse teeming with bohemian expatriates.

Irons himself does not oblige — he is busy dying of leukaemia — but there are enough sexual stirrings among other guests young and old to make this one of those long hot summers, so popular in cinema and fiction, when family secrets are revealed and adolescents ripen.

But it would be unfair to pigeonhole Bertolucci's film as the shallow fantasy of a middle-aged man casting a fond eye on youth. Death is a spectre at this feast. You glimpse him in the shadows, his head crowned with sickly, his hair crowned with a scarf or a woolly hat. You see him in Jean Marais' capering antics dealer, on the borderline of senility. And the script, written with the American novelist Susan Minot, is popu-



Liv Tyler, "an 18-year-old with the world at her feet", shares the Tuscan scenery with some significant statuary in the lightweight, but frequently moving *Stealing Beauty*

lated by absent presences. There is Lucy's late mother, a poet whose holiday flings led to Lucy's conception. There is Lucy's father, the search for whose identity partly prompted this summer trip.

With the end near, Irons tells Tyler, "I so enjoyed watching all that beauty". But Tyler is not the only beauty. Versatile cameraman Darius Khondji — he shot the urban nightmare of *Seven* — lingers long on the Tuscan hills and the summer light. The landscape is studded with terracotta statues (ostensibly the work of Donal McGarr's sculptor, in reality created by Matthew Spender). The setting, indeed, is surprisingly idyllic only a few forced remarks about a TV mast being built "no brains" suggest Bertolucci the social critic.

Bertolucci calls *Stealing Beauty* a "cautious homecoming", and admirers of his earlier Italian work might well chafe at its lightness. But the

weight and scale suit the material; and it would take a killjoy not to relish the film's dynamic images, the interplay of sexes and generations, and the acute sense of life's joy and pain.

There are few of us who from time to time have not been curious about the inside of John Travolta's head. *Phenomenon* provides the answer. The man is a genius. He can predict earthquakes and learn Portuguese in 20 minutes. He reads four books a day. Or at least his character George Malley does, after being bluffed unconscious by a fast-moving light in the mid-night sky.

Before the incident George was a friendly, unexceptional small-town mechanic, with a ready grin and lots of blue denim; after it he remains a friendly mechanic, although his chums grow wary. He attracts the FBI's unwelcome attention when he casually

decodes secret messages; but the person he actively tries to attract, Kyra Sedgwick, the new single parent in town, keeps him at bay.

Can George Malley find love and happiness with an IQ that goes off the scale? The question might seem refreshingly novel at a time when Hollywood glorifies stupidity in *Forrest Gump* and *Dumb & Dumber*. But as John Travolta's film stumbles forward it fritters away its comic fantasy and becomes more and more a disease movie in disguise. Mawkishness proliferates, both in action and words. "I think I'm what every one can be. I'm the possibility," Travolta burbles radiantly after learning that his IQ may be the death of him.

The film certainly thinks Travolta is someone special. In the silliest sequence, Sedgwick demonstrates her new romantic ardour by tenderly washing and cutting his hair and shaving his stubble while a bland pop song drones

on the soundtrack. Travolta makes an unlikely Adonis, although overall he peddles enough easy charm to make Malley sympathetic. Everyman with a booster shot. Not enough charm, though, to save the film from its love affair with the thumpingly obvious, or pull it clear from a bog of mush. For a film concerned with the higher levels of intelligence, *Phenomenon* is remarkably dimwitted itself.

Stupidity is not a problem with *Boys*; the sticking point in Stacy Cochran's singular little film is lack of audience appeal. Who do you identify with? Winona Ryder, the distressed damsel who wants to avoid police questions for reasons kept hidden for the longest time? Or Lukas Haas (the *Witness* boy grown up), the disaffected teenager who faces parental frowns and high school taunts by becoming his knight in shining armour? In the event, neither becomes our pal.

It is clear enough what Cochran wanted in this adaptation of a James Salter short story: a study of two lives in the balance, offering each other redemption. But so many things muddy the goal. The autumnal images are neatly designed, but apart from a burst of fairground neon come shrouded in off-putting gloom. The script is inadequate, the characters

fuzzy. Ryder tries to make something out of her mystery girl, but Haas, less experienced, maintains an impenetrable glare even when asking her to marry him.

Cochran's only previous feature, the whimsical comedy *My New Gun*, also suffered from unrealised potential: maybe she needs Travolta's booster shot to build herself up a bit.

SNAP VERDICT

'The cast is good'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

STEALING BEAUTY
Edward Dees, 19: It reminded me of *Sirens* — very dreamy and a bit pretentious. The plot kept me awake but was not exactly enthralling.
Bert Dörr, 18: Not much happens and what does is rather predictable, but the film is pleasant to watch.
Niamh Brooks, 20: Bertolucci seems to have lost the touch that made *The Last Emperor* and others such classics. However, the cast is good with Jeremy Irons excelling.
Alisdair Nimmo, 19: Liv Tyler is both impressive and beautiful in the lead role.

PHENOMENON
Edward: The cast is great, with everyone turning in superbly believable performances, but it does spill over into melodrama.
Bert: Forest Whitaker deserves a lead role one day — he cannot be left in the shadows for all his career.
Niamh: This works as a feel-good movie, despite Travolta not being quite able to pull off the role of genius.
Alisdair: This film led me to laughter and tears.

BOYS
Edward: Lukas Haas portrays perfectly a teenager fawning over Winona Ryder. Unfortunately, this theme does not make a plot and by the end I just did not care what happened.
Bert: The plot is scarcely credible, but it does sweep you along.
Niamh: Ryder seems to still be searching for a consistent performance and only sparkles periodically.
Alisdair: The feisty Ryder has settled into a character well suited to her charms.

One conductor is simply not enough

György Kurtág and Charles Ives had, of course, met before at the Albert Hall, when the living Hungarian composer responded to the immortal New Englander in his *The Answered-Unanswered Question*, premiered at the Proms in 1994. But one of the most rewarding introductions effected by the BBC Symphony Orchestra at this year's Proms was between Kurtág's *Stele* (receiving its British premiere on Tuesday night) and Ives's great Fourth Symphony.

Already, in the Kurtág, two conductors (Andrew Davis and Laurent Philippe) were lined up on stage, a sure sign of the multidimensional sound, the coexisting musics brought to their apotheosis later in the concert in the music of Ives. But for all the contrapuntal density and superimpositions of its second movement (marked *disperato*, *con moto*, and beguilingly scored with cimbalom and marimba ostinati, wild high double-basses and trumpets), *Stele* is a work of disarming simplicity.

Its title refers to the inscription-bearing commemorative stone slabs of Ancient Greece.

MUSIC: Huge works by Ives and Kurtág reviewed at the BBC Proms; and a tribute to adventurous Orkney

The last movement is an orchestral arrangement of the solo piano piece Kurtág wrote on the death of his teacher, Andras Mihaly.

Like virtually all of Kurtág's music, this is not only, in his own turn of

phrase, music that lets itself be written, but music that, one feels, had to be written. And nowhere more so than in the wonderful final section, where the strange fluctuating intonation of the opening, and the low-level strata of

block orchestration, yield to a progression of heavy, luminous chords. They move out of a shifting percussion pulse and reverberation, until the orchestra becomes one long, sustained reverberation itself, inhaling and exhaling

through beautifully placed textures and registers to its final expiration.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Davis have had a good recent run-in for the Ives; they gave a fine performance of the Fourth Symphony at the Barbican's Ives festival earlier this year. This performance excelled even that one, with the Albert Hall itself a potent stage-manager for Ives's diverse forces.

While at least two orchestras seemed to be playing at once on stage, and the BBC Singers gravely singing *Watchman, all of us of the night and Bethany*, the music itself moved from hymnody to chamber music, from rumbustious brass band to dream vision, from formalistic fugue to intimations of immortality in what Calum MacDonald's astute programme note called "a grand personal continuum of allusion, association and vision". This early masterpiece of our century was all the more moving for the ease, sophistication and sheer enjoyment brought to it by all its performers.

HILARY FINCH

Go north, budding composers

CAN a music festival combine an adventurous music programme with box office success? The sold-out signs outside music venues at this year's Edinburgh Festival may be welcome news to the organisers, but they would have to concede that contemporary music has not exactly been a major ingredient.

Magnus Linklater writes. There has been, to the dismay of some critics, a dearth of commissioned work by living composers. James MacMillan's new opera *Ines de Castro* was a rare exception.

A couple of hundred miles further north, however, the St Magnus Festival, whose presiding genius is the composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, has a remarkably different record. Over the past ten years of its existence, the festival has premiered no fewer than 93 new works. Of these, 29 were specially commissioned for the festival. The performances include the very first, in 1977, of

Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Martyrdom of St Magnus*; there have been new works by Judith Weir, Geoffrey King, Edward Harper, David Gray, Andras Szollosy, James MacMillan, Richard Rodney Bennett and Simon Holt. There was even a *Beggar's Opera*, with music devised from original airs by seven modern composers. And this year saw Maxwell Davies's new Sixth Symphony, commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to celebrate its own 50th birthday.

At least as remarkable as this is the way local schoolchildren have been trained to sing some of the more demanding music around — with every appearance of enjoying it. At the same time audiences have grown steadily. The list was compiled by Maxwell Davies's manager, Judy Arnold, and Archie Bevan, a former director. "I find it astonishing that little old Orkney has been able to produce all this," says Arnold.

FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNER BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI
DIRECTOR OF "LAST TANGO IN PARIS" AND "THE LAST EMPEROR"

"(Bertolucci's) most seductive film in a very long while."
Angie Errigo - EMPIRE

"An exotic and sensuous film, in which the beauty of the Italian countryside is surpassed only by that of Liv Tyler, whose performance is exceptional. Unusual, moving, witty and strongly recommended."
THE TIMES

"A joy to watch"
Geoff Andrew - TIME OUT

Stealing Beauty

SINEAD CUSACK, JEREMY IRONS, JON MARCUS, D.W. MOFFETT, EFANIA DORELLI, FOR SEARCHING PICTURES, RECORDED PICTURE COMPANY, AND IMAGES, BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI, STEALING BEAUTY, GIANNI SILVESTRI, DARIUS KHONDJI, BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI, MAS

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VIDEOS
A chance to delight in the wonderful world of Tony Hancock in the release of three classic 1950s episodes

Vietnam



THEATRE 1
Chichester offers a glimpse of lesser Turgenev as Alan Bates takes the lead in *Fortune's Fool*



THEATRE 2
... while the Edinburgh Festival is lumbered with an insubstantial drama from Botho Strauss

THE TIMES
ARTS



RADIO
Tony Benn calls Nick Ross, and finds himself facing an unexpectedly existential query



TOMORROW
How will Patricia Routledge play Beatrix Potter? Read Benedict Nightingale's Chichester report

THEATRE: Alan Bates's mood swings widely and wildly in Chichester; plus London, Edinburgh and Irish reviews

Good plot, pity about the star

Two years ago Helen Mirren magnificently demonstrated that *A Month in the Country* has as much emotional power and complexity as any play written in the 19th century, in or out of Russia. But what of Turgenev's other dramatic work, and notably *The Parasite*, as *Fortune's Fool* is usually called in English? It was at least as successful in its day, but you are likely to have to journey to the book emporiums of Hay-on-Wye to find a good translation of it and most unlikely to have seen even a bad performance of it on a British stage.

Mike Poulton's adaptation and Gale Edwards's production do enough to prove that the piece is worth rescuing. It has its melodramatic and its sentimental moments, and it is somewhat unevenly performed at Chichester, not least by its leading actor, Alan Bates, who alternates between diving boldly into the title role and cautiously dipping his big toe into it. Even so, the play touches feelings and dramatists' dilemmas way beyond the British theatre of 1948 or, for that matter, 1996.

Bates's Kuzovkin is one of those impoverished, vaguely genteel hangers-on who seem to have nested half-noticed in 19th-century Russian mansions. Waffles, amiably scrumming his guitar in *Uncle Vanya*, is Chekhov's version. The difference is that Kuzovkin was originally given free board and lodging as "a court jester, a fool - every household needs someone to make fun of". That is the steward's view; but the man himself would probably endorse it. He describes himself as "broken", and knows what an object figure he cuts.

Except that here he doesn't. Maybe the change of title is significant, for Bates is less a pathetic parasite than a decent man undeservedly on his uppers: "fortune's fool". The years of humiliation have not found their way into his voice or bearing. As a result, his big revelation lacks the disquieting impact it requires.

It is that he is the father of Olga Petrovna, who is returning with her young husband to take command of the great house she left as a girl. Her supposed father was a brute, her

mother was the victim of his violence, and, unknown to everyone, Kuzovkin slid into the marital bed. Bates blurs out this long-hidden secret very forcefully. Plied with booze, taunted by a malicious neighbour, mocked for misfortunes that include being enmeshed in a court case alongside which *Jarndyce versus Jarndyce* might be a wrangle about parking tickets, he leaps on to the lunch table and dementedly lets rip. You see his distress. You never sense his depth.

That is a pity, because the play proceeds to get intriguing. Will it give Olga more peace of mind if Kuzovkin confirms he is her father or, as her husband wants, tells her he has been lying?

What is the genuinely paternal way to behave? The confrontation between Kuzovkin and his daughter is packed with lines about "angel mothers" and "devil women" and cries of "don't torture me, don't torture me"; but even with Bates failing to explore all his character's confusions and Rachel Pickup proving less moving than she might be, there is more reality than fustian in the air. Both they and Benedict Bates, in the tricky role of a young spouse who must sometimes be larky and sometimes painfully earnest, clearly needed more and, I suspect, more challenging rehearsal.

But one performance couldn't be bettered. Most actors would play Tropatchov, the neighbour who arrogantly pushes his way into Olga's house and Kuzovkin's psyche, as a supercilious fop with a mean, gossiping streak. Desmond Barrit goes further, building him into a formidable monster who may cackle, slap his thighs and make fatuous quips, but he also has a frightening capacity for cruelty and a real relish in others' pain. Cross Vanbrugh's Lord Foppington with one of Quentin Tarantino's killers, and the result might be a man like this.

Barrit does not just command the stage, he makes you shiver with his awful, sadistic joviality. Whatever the revival's inadequacies, this is top-notch acting.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Fortune's Fool Chichester



David Collings and Alan Bates in Turgenev's rarely performed, but still powerful *Fortune's Fool*

Dance until you drop, kids

They Shoot Horses, Don't They?
Bloomsbury, WCI

The National Youth Theatre, taking over the Bloomsbury for its annual season of shows, is 40 years old this autumn. After treading the boards for that long, most companies would be creaking artistically if not heading for the knacker's yard. However, the NYT is the Peter Pan of stage companies. Its players are always under 21: the faces (they hope) of tomorrow's stage and screen.

Nevertheless, by kicking off this anniversary season with *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, director Edward Wilson may be making a little joke, if not a bleaker comment. Based on Horace McCoy's novel, Ray Herman's play is about an exhausting dance marathon lasting - if not 40 years - 50 days and nights.

This is Tinseltown in the Great Depression, 1936. We are the spectators come to watch young couples dancing, literally till they drop, at the end of the pier (Lotte Collett's scenery provides a lamp-lit promenade). The competitors are desperately dreaming of making it big, of being spotted by movie agents who they believe will be there scouting at this cheap entertainment.

Falling that, unemployed and destitute, they are fighting to stay in the running for the promised prize money. Dazed with fatigue, they find themselves exploited by "our friendly MC" Rocky, sleazy Tim Baker with little taste and big grin. While churning out patter about being fair and

caring, he offers some gals rewards for sexual favours and degrades everyone in knockout derby races. Remorselessly upbeat, he sings *We're In The Money*, backed by the band, as couples collapse at his feet. This is a dark vision of capitalism. It is a warning about naive dreams and the unsunny side of show business.

You also see the practical reason why Wilson picked the play: there are small parts aplenty for his 50-strong troupe. It is a potential showcase for dancers. Everyone gets to talk like a Yank. Herman's dialogue can be lively, partners arguing about hoofing it out of the competition.

The problem is that narrative drive dwindles into narrative drift before a closing flurry of drama (a marriage, a man on the run, and sudden deaths). Characters mill about without focus. The staging is at fault here - but also Herman's script, which only glimpses into personal lives. Outbursts of aggression and suicidal despair do not seem to rise out of gruelling experience. That said, Jayne Nesbitt's Jackie is a terrific, weary, slyly broad who can sing jazz in her sleep.

KATE BASSETT

Words fail her

Seachange/The Kiss
Kilkenny

AND THEY say there are no good roles for women any more. In *Seachange*, the first half of a two-part evening of little plays at Cleeve's Theatre starring Tom Hickey, Liz Keller, the supporting actor, spends almost the entire time sitting on a bench, staring straight ahead, munching the odd sweet, and occasionally laughing, while listening to a white-haired amnesiac (Hickey) let his mind wander. Odder still, in the original small screen version of John Banville's playlet of laughter and forgetting, Fiona Shaw took this role. Whoever is cast in the part, however, there is no hiding from the fact that *Seachange* is a one-man show with a human prop.

Despite the old man's conviviality, and his generosity with the bomboms he keeps in his pocket, there is something increasingly eerie about what he has to say. Slowly it becomes apparent that despite the inequality of the roles, the female character may, after all, be the central consciousness, and Hickey's white-haired amnesiac simply a projection from deep in her memory or imagination.

Creating a character around a few vestigial appetites - the old man feels that in his previous incarnation he must have developed a taste for chocolate and cigarettes - is clearly hard work, particularly as Banville's script fights to keep the character spectral. Reduced to a surface of interlocking quirks and some dried-out jokes, Hickey appears to find himself slightly flatfooted.

The second half of the evening is given over to Michael Harding's *The Kiss*, directed by the author. Once more, we are in the land of reminiscences, but this time Keller gets to play the piano, even if she has nothing whatsoever to say. Once more, patience is required to piece together the anecdotes, and work out that this time Hickey is playing a child-molesting priest.

The Kiss gives the actor a little more to work with than *Seachange*, but this sub-Beckett monologue with music is stiff and without sparkle. Script and actor have to work too hard for any laughter they elicit from this dark material, and when the writer tries to catch the audience laughing with a sudden change of mood, it seems a cheap trick.

Hickey seems to be afraid that to differentiate his two roles too firmly - signalling too broadly the difference between a man who remembers nothing and one who wishes he could forget everything - would be a greater fault than having them meld in the audience's mind. In his effort to keep his work muted, however, he delivers a pair of uncharismatic performances.

Unfortunately, under these circumstances - where one actor's centrality to the evening sets up such grand expectations - anything less than a tour de force is a disappointment.

LUKE CLANCY



John Ramm (Olaf) and Anita Dobson as one of her several Marias in Botho Strauss's *Time and the Room*

The face is the same, but who is she?

WE SEE time, or rather a timepiece, before the curtain goes up on Botho Strauss's play at the Royal Lyceum: the kind of pocket watch the White Rabbit consulted is attached to the curtain and keeps real time throughout the performance, although it is an hour fast. Probably there is some reason for this.

When the curtain and the watch go up we see the room (designer, Wolfgang Götzel), the first of many, alike only in floor area and in the disposition of windows and door, cupboard and wooden pillar. For the first act large paintings hang on the white walls. At the start of the second act shrunken versions of these are propped against the walls, but by the end of the play all have been removed. Sometimes there are books in the huge cupboard, but next time the door swings open cigarette lighters cascade out; then

the shelves are stocked with wine bottles (a good surprise, this) or tapes or bric-à-brac. This is because the occupants of the room change, although in doing so they do not follow the linear procedures of time, as, for example, in the Dublin play *Buddieia*. A Strauss room is not rented out to a sequence of locals: the same people return but are somehow not the same.

Consider Anita Dobson, who is on stage the greater part of the evening playing Marie Steuber. The dizzy, mini-skirted Marie of the first act, who met the wrong man at the airport, is presumably the same Marie we see after the interval having met the right man, leading us to expect that the play will move into a parallel time. But she can hardly be the vehement

Time and the Room Edinburgh

with a slob. Or, if so, how is she also a secretary when the room becomes the busy office of a glossy magazine? An answer to this puzzle will not be found in the text, despite its lively translation by Jeremy Sams. Strauss is floating ideas about the puzzle of life, with time and memory playing a part, although it is hard to see how they fit in.

I must be a more stolid creature than I supposed, for I ended up so bemused by the play that I could not locate what it might be saying about life outside the theatre.

This is not to say that Martin Duncan's Nottingham Playhouse production fails the enjoyment test.

Strauss has the knack of creating vivid characters and Duncan's meticulous direction relates and isolates them in ways that are continually exciting. I kept thinking back to the Giacometti exhibition I saw earlier in the day, where figures are enveloped in palpable space. Marie and the others are often similarly bewildered and oppressed by it.

Dobson is effectively funny and vehement by turns, and poignant when the room's pillar starts talking to her. Other performers are also intriguing, particularly John Ramm's watchful, bespectacled Olaf, gloomily letting time pass by. But if it were not for the *Uncle Vanya* due later this week the Festival's official programme would have failed to deliver a single sturdy play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

RADIO: Channel-hopping brings its (sometimes bizarre) rewards

Network-hopping, the radio equivalent of channel surfing in television, is considered slightly infra dig. Obviously (devout radio types say) television is a facile, random medium, whereas radio listeners plan and prepare, as if organising a banquet.

Well, up to a point. I listen to more whole programmes each week than I care to recall, usually on tape. But get stuck at a traffic light in summer, when car windows tend to be open, and the principal occupation around one seems to be a button-pushing exercise in search of stimulation.

This is a policy that can yield results. On Tuesday morning, for example, Tony Benn rang up Nick Ross. I had been about to switch off *Call Nick Ross* (Radio 4) because although the programme is generally good value, Tuesday's edition was about the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles, the most tedious coupling in all of Christendom. But I heard Ross say: "Is this the Tony Benn?" I suspect that is one of the toughest questions the Tony Benn has

Gems that cheer up the jams

an, a man of the people who may well believe that any Tony Benn is as worthy of the definite article as himself?

A nanosecond passed in which Benn clearly wrestled with this dilemma, before haltingly admitting that the Tony Benn was indeed who he was. He then produced his usual (though erudite) speech about the power of the royals. Acts of Parliament and so forth. Through lateral thinking I was left with the thrilling notion of an Act abolishing the pound sterling signed "Camilla", a splendid reward for two minutes' listening.

The other snatched highlights this week have centred on West Indian

culture, but the Notting Hill Carnival, or programmes related thereto, has not been the best of them. *One In The Jungle* and *The Radio One Rap Show* (both Monday, Radio 1) were full of verve but the calmer waters of early mornings on Radio 4 have provided richer pickings for a wider audience.

Trevor McDonald is reading *Beyond a Boundary* by C.L.R. James each morning this week. Anyone missing this on the grounds that they dislike cricket has made the same mistake as the young journalist who refused my copy of *The Old Man and the Sea* because he didn't like fishing.

James's story of growing up in Trinidad is one of the best reads in the English language, an evocative analysis of caste tensions and social development. The window of James's boyhood home overlooking a cricket pitch becomes a window on the world through which we are invited to observe a society in flux. Press this button at a traffic light and you will not want to move on.

PETER BARNARD

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David Pryce-Jones on a calamitous experiment in social engineering that left Russia ill-equipped to deal with the future

Communism rested on systematic violence. There were always a few commentators who carefully described this threat to law-based societies and morality everywhere, but they tended to be dismissed as Cold War freaks. For a variety of reasons, intelligent people often became irrational on the subject of the Soviet Union. Some were deceiving themselves, while others swallowed deliberate deception on the part of Communists.

The academic sub-group known as Sovietologists in particular helped to mislead public opinion. The majority of them analysed the Soviet Union as though it were a society much like their own. Glossing over the central role of violence, they were accepting at face value Communist claims of success. This indulgent portrayal of the Soviet Union was thoroughly bizarre. As Soviet archives now substantiate, the brute reality was far worse than even the most severe critics supposed.

Orlando Figes is a young Cambridge don, seemingly a natural Sovietologist. In some passages he comes close to justifying Communist violence, or at least saying that there was no alternative to it. The Bolsheviks, he writes in a typically apologetic use of the passive tense, "were forced" to deploy terror to silence critics and subjugate society.

So it is to his great credit that in general he has escaped from irrational attitudes and

sees inhuman violence for what it was. Civilisation cracked in Russia. "The primitive zoological instincts of man" were exposed, and "people began to like the smell of blood." He documents appalling atrocities, including the cannibalism which became widespread as normal standards of behaviour were swept aside.

From all sorts of Soviet archives and sources, he has gathered an enormous amount of telling detail. Long as it is, the book is easy to read, free from jargon and very well dramatised by following closely the fates of individuals such as Gorky, Prince Lvov, General Brusilov, a peasant reformer by the name of Semenov, and a couple of commissars. All in all, he has taken the Revolution away from Sovietology and restored it to the realm of history. Here is an important landmark.

In Tsarist Russia, the divide between power and subjects

Eager for the smell of blood

A PEOPLE'S TRAGEDY
The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924
By Orlando Figes
Cape, £30
ISBN 0 224 04162 2



A new kind of terror: a Kursk peasant is executed for possessing a hunting rifle (1919)

was absolute. In the Ottoman Empire, Persia, China and even British India, modernisation meant converting autocracy into a constitutional society. Though difficult, the task was not inherently impossible. Witte, Stolypin and other ministers could not persuade Tsar Nicholas II to reform. Slowly but surely, he created various oppositions out of the very

people whose support was essential: the mass of the peasantry, workers, the national movements, eventually the army. The Tsar undermined himself. Inadequately equipped to rule, devoid of political instinct, he found it easier finally to abdicate than to turn himself into a constitutional monarch.

Immemorially the peasants had believed that the land belonged to them. Genuine land reform might have been enough to stave off revolution. Reflecting at their level the autocracy at the top, they were as anarchic in outlook as they were traditional. Democracy, government by consent, accountability, were notions absolutely strange to them. Figes gives many fascinating examples of how people had no real understanding of the new

abstractions about Soviets and constitutions and parties which were being thrown around in their name. "Long live Communists! Death to the Bolsheviks!" was one typically confused cry.

Of all the great powers, Russia was least prepared for the First World War. Its social weaknesses were then cruelly exposed. Authority disintegrated. Perhaps revolution was the likeliest outcome but only a combination of far-fetched circumstances brought it about: military disaster, the ineptitude of parliamentarians and socialists, the ruthlessness of Lenin and his colleagues, and Kerensky's fatal decision not to suppress the Bolsheviks. When the Bolsheviks came to finalise their coup, they showed none of Kerensky's liberal-minded restraint.

All accounts of the post-1917 civil war are confusing, and this is no exception. Figes's great narrative gift wobbles a bit. What emerges is that the Whites made the same mistake as the Tsar before them, refusing to launch a political process in which everyone could participate. Terror had to meet terror. Revenge became the order of the day. By the simple expedient of promising them land, the Reds won over the peasants, and this was decisive. They saw them-

selves, as Lenin had promised, "looting the looters".

For the victorious Lenin, the pursuit of power was an ultimate end, to be attained for its own sake. In its dogma and dictatorship, he fashioned the Communist Party into a living replication of his own narrow character. For the many national minorities, the Soviet regime was colonialism by another name; for the peasants it was a form of serfdom; and for workers a harsher exploitation than before. By the time of his death, Lenin seems to have realised that his class-driven analysis of society and history led to horror.

Stalin had only to take over where Lenin had left off. The murderous struggles to come were already in place, in embryo. The simple wish to own their own land had opposed the peasants to the party-state as much as to the previous autocrat, but now millions were to pay with their lives for it. The secret police was the same as ever, but with license under a General Secretary to be far more cruel than when in the service of a Tsar.

Retarded by its calamitous experiment in social engineering, Russia is today in the plight that it was a hundred years ago. Only a constitutional society can restore morality and modernise the country for its due place in the world. This too is not inherently impossible. It may take time, but rationality in the end is irresistible, even for intellectuals.

Not so happy ever after

A HAPPY ending is so rare in modern literary fiction that its existence should be advertised at once. The British revel in the worst, and sneer at Americans for having their constitutional right to happiness leaking into everything from film-scripts to Pulitzer prize winners.

In *Criminals*, five adults have their lives briefly knitted together by the theft of a baby. The baby's mother, Joan, is a gentle immigrant, yoked to Kenneth, an unpleasant low-life. He leaves the baby on the floor of a men's toilet, where she is found by Ewan, a decent young banker on his way to see his sister.

Formerly married to a novelist, Mollie lives in a remote house called the Mill of Fortune, and is on the verge of a serious breakdown. When she sees the baby Ewan has found, she is determined to keep her. The novel interweaves her desperate deceptions, Joan's frantic search for her child, Kenneth's attempt at blackmail, with somewhat inappropriate extracts from the ex-husband's novel. None but Kenneth are willing criminals, yet all are compromised by love.

The theme is a powerful one. All but one of the characters are sympathetic, described with compassion. Margot Livesey, a Scot who now lives in Massachusetts, comes garlanded with comparisons to Hardy and Rendell from such American luminaries as Jayne Anne Phillips and Richard Ford. The force of one small slip has, however, less drastic consequences than we might wish: if you consider the way Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* actually ends with a reconciliation.

Amanda Craig

CRIMINALS
By Margot Livesey
Secker & Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 22866 3

ation between her modern Regan and Goneril, you can guess the kind of finale we get here.

Livesey's prose is efficient (except when trying to describe the thoughts of Kenneth, where jarring Americanisms such as "gotten" creep in), and the suspense very much of the superior kind encouraged by creative writing schools. She delivers a poised and engaging combination of plot, particularly, moral revelation and adventure. Yet it does not wholly fulfil.

THIS IS a Scottish writer who, for good and ill, has crossed the Atlantic and cannot come back. American fiction, though currently displaying a realism, stylishness and technical accomplishment which is hugely admirable, has as its downside an upbeat, corn-fed sameness about it that our free-range, often unpalatable eccentric breeds escape. The palimpsest of culture, satire and formal inventiveness of a British writer are not there in Livesey: her Britain is a minuscule place, flattened, ahistorical. It's Kansas, not Oz. *Criminals* has us as reinterpreted by Raymond Carver with a dash of Alice Hoffmann — a novel viewpoint that rings false.

What pleases emotionally is not, unfortunately, what works aesthetically. To end a tale of insider-dealing, kidnapping, blackmail and madcap with almost everyone getting away scot-free is a little too upbeat for glum intellectuals. Our conclusions would be sadder, less commercial, and quite possibly, less realistic.

Driving to the edge of extinction

Imagine a circular lily pond. The memorable first sentence of W. D. Hamilton's paper *Geometry for the Selfish Herd* presages his simple but productive mathematics. Hamilton is more naturalist and explorer than technical mathematician, but he has the larger imagination of a great mathematician and he is, in my not uninformed opinion, the most innovative evolutionary imaginer since Darwin.

He has never published a book before, and nobody has published a book like *Narrow Roads of Gene Land*. It is (Volume 1 of) his collected papers, bound together with an autobiographical thread. Distinguished scientists often publish their collected papers, but these sometimes turn out to have less in them than one had thought. Hamilton's invariably have more.

Richard Dawkins
treads the
paths of
evolution

The byways of a Hamilton paper, written in his uniquely (for a scientific paper) reflective, meditative prose, are a kind of negative padding. To take just one of these narrow roads for example, there is a theory of the origins of sociality in termites which is universally attributed to an American author whom I shall call B. Quite recently I heard Hamilton referring to B's theory and I stopped him. "Bill, that isn't B's theory. You thought of it first. It's clearly

stated in your 1972 paper." He denied it Eeyorishly; only when I thrust his own paragraph under his nose did he gloomily agree.

His modesty is legendary, but the autobiographical passages of this book reveal a stubborn belief in the importance of what he was doing even during the wilderness years when scarcely anybody else saw any merit in the questions he was asking. "I told you so" is not a naturally Hamiltonian phrase, but we can read it between the lines of his account of obscure and frustrating early years in Cambridge and London.

Recognition has now come. Others, in their thousands, are tramping Hamilton's original narrow roads into broad highways of Kuhnian normal science. Still a prophet but no longer without honour, Hamilton is cutting new trails through the Brazilian jungle and through mathematical gene land. Still alone perhaps, but only in the sense of being without peer.

Hamilton's papers are not easy, and this is not a book that even professionals will necessarily read from cover to cover. But the autobiographical notes form a narrative that can be read on its own: when we have acquired a taste for Hamilton's uniquely personal style, we shall recognise snatches of it as we flick over the papers themselves which will lure us in to make the worthwhile effort. Who, after all, could resist a paper called *Gambblers since Life Began: Barnacles, Aphids, Elms?*

Imagine — as Hamilton has probably written somewhere — a world without islands. Islands are not just small pieces of land surrounded by water. They are small pieces of anything surrounded by what-

ever serves as a barrier to animal or plant dispersal. To a fish, a lake is an island of water surrounded by land. In the world of the yellow bellied marmot, mountains can form an archipelago of islands jutting out of the plain. Islands and the consequences of their existence, are the subject of David Quammen's *The Song of the Dodo*.

A world without islands would be sterile. The Heaven of Rupert Brooke's fish ("There shall be no more land, say fish") would not be fly-reeple, would be destitute of fish themselves. An undissected waterscape, or landscape, deprives gene pools of the opportunity to diverge and form new species. Your ancestors and small ancestors were once races of the same precambrian species. But for some vanished barrier between two seas they would be interbreeding still, and evolution could not have progressed. Islands, in the broad sense and on the evolutionary timescale, are the

spawning grounds of new species.

No wonder islands inspired both Charles Darwin and the co-discoverer of his principle, Alfred Wallace. No wonder islands provoked one of the

NARROW ROADS OF
GENELAND
By W. D. Hamilton
W. H. Freeman, £40
ISBN 0 7167 4551 8
THE SONG OF THE
DODO
By David Quammen
Hutchinson, £20
ISBN 0 09 180796 6

most influential collaborations of modern ecology, between Edward O. Wilson and the late Robert MacArthur. Quammen grips against Darwin but the others in this list are his heroes, together with a large collection of young, mostly American, field ecologists for whom he cad-

dies across their various archipelagos around the world.

You don't have to be American to enjoy this book, but it might help. Quammen's baseball-hatted cast are forever indulging in that peculiar affectation of American field biologists of both sexes, the "real tough" language of the farm boy. A snake expert dons an old gardening glove because "I don't like being bit".

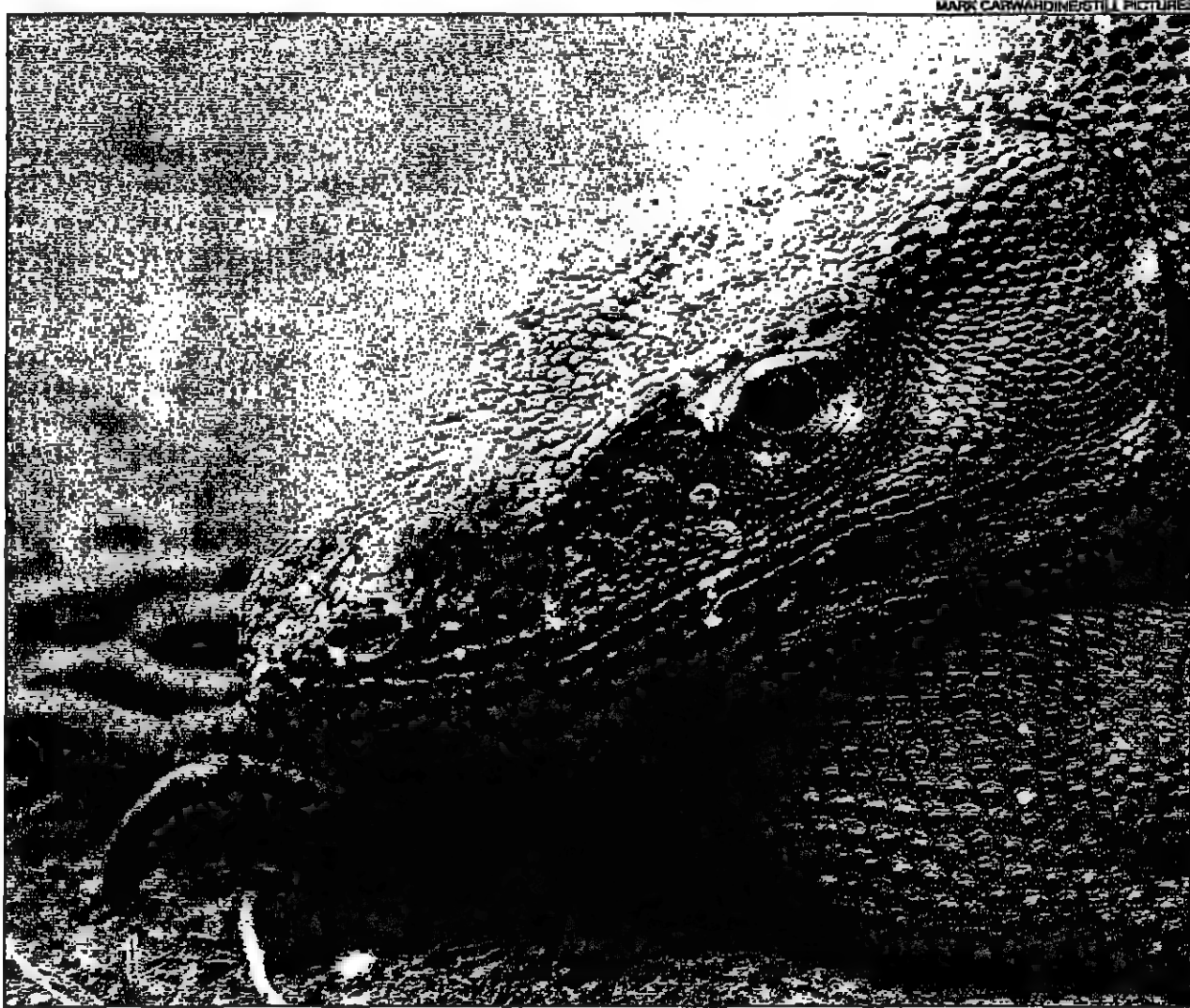
Never mind, it is all the more touching when one of these scientific tough guys breaks down in tears when one of his favourite islands is laid waste to make a caravan site for Florida sunseekers. Quammen himself gives us a moving elegy for Bodo, boy naturalist of the Madagascar jungles, murdered out of jealousy for his professional success as peerless guide to the world's lemur watchers.

This is, finally, a moving book. It passes from evolution to that other aspect of island faunas, their vulnerability to extinction. Quammen's quest

took him to the world's islands and archipelagos, not to take a last look at the Komodo dragon or the Mauritius kestrel, but to talk to the experts about why they may go extinct. There is an elaborate theory of island biogeography, of the mathematical equilibrium between colonisation and extinction. There are tough-talking controversies between rival island biogeographers.

Quammen listened patiently to them all. He is a science journalist who does not duck the responsibility to convey the complexities of his subject. The book is longer than I would have advised, but David Quammen is a good writer who has taken the trouble to master an important subject and do it justice.

Richard Dawkins is the first Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University. His latest book is *Climbing Mount Improbable*.



Endangered giant: the Komodo dragon is native to the islands of Indonesia and can reach up to three metres in length

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In Clapham's olive groves

Jasper Rees

AFTER HANNIBAL
By Barry Unsworth
Hamish Hamilton, £16
ISBN 0 231 13342 4

Mrs Radcliffe was the first novelist to take the English reader to Italy, which she painted as a craggy chamber of horrors. Never mind that she never actually came to see for herself. Those who did — Forster, James et al — developed a more genuflecting relationship with the peninsula. Nowadays, far from hymning the olive press, the English novel is once more determined to give Italy a bad press. Writers with residential connections like Tim Parks, Michael Dibdin and even John Mortimer saw what Peter Mayle did to Provence, and started shouting from the terracotta rooftops about Italy's black underbelly — pour décourager les autres.

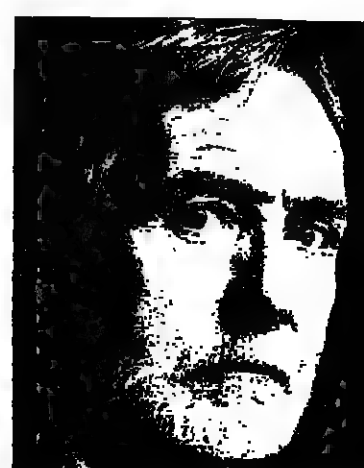
The latest novelist to migrate south is Barry Unsworth, doubtless lured by the spoils of Booker triumph. No sooner had he relocated to Umbria (Clapham to Tuscany's Chelsea) than he was cauterising his experiences onto the page. Needless to say, the Umbria he envisions in *After Hannibal* is like one of those medieval depictions of hell, populated by saturnine lawyers, cunning contadini and incompetent builders.

Corruption is rife, grim memories abound of internecine bloodletting, and over all hangs the perpetual threat of earthquake. If you're thinking of investing in a farmhouse in Italy's green heart, read this novel first — and then buy a bomb shelter in Lebanon.

It's not simply on the conoured logistics of acquiring property that Unsworth seeks to dwell. His Umbrian arrivistes are as emotionally crooked and cracked as the house purchased by his two elderly Americans (whose heartbreaking innocence is semaphored in their surname: Green). This ragbag of incomers all

come here in search of healing, but if life has not already broken them, it becomes apparent that it will. The homosexual ex-racing driver is soon swindled by his younger lover. History is repeated when a specialist in Perugia's gory past is betrayed by his wife. The English couple are rent apart by a spat with the local peasantry. The German ex-interpreter clears his brambly land, as if to rake over the memory of his father's Nazism.

They all live along a *strada vicinale*, one of those poorly maintained by-roads which services the properties in the hills. Unsworth understands its power as an image of the random unions forced on us, but for quite such a morass of tragedy to be collected along one unspooled track seems extremely convenient. The author is playing God here, but he does so rather subtly than his wonderfully serpentine lawyer Mancini plays the devil.



Unsworth: Umbrian discontent

Oddly, given his nationality, this particular creator is much better at drawing elegant, complicated Italians than oafish, venial Englishmen. In trying to make a realistic dis-

tion between locals and foreigners, he makes the Brits speak their own tongue as if in a bad translation. No wonder Chapman, one of the Anglos who starts arguing with the locals, drives his wife away: he has the fictional character's insufferable habit of telling her things she already knows. As for Blemish, the soi-disant "project manager" who slyly destroys the Greens' home, his villainy is pure pantomime.

As characters, both are worthlessly slight. Aside from making them talk on stilts, Unsworth can signal his disapproval only by blinding them to the splendour of the local frescoes. This is a guess, but their inclusion looks like a private act of vengeance on some neighbourly compatriots whose ghastliness has blighted the author's Umbrian idyll. They've probably never read a book in their lives and certainly won't break the habit with *After Hannibal*. But that's no reason why anyone else should avoid a slowly satisfying excavation of the way personality is altered and en-

How to

John Bayley on a vivid evocation of an alternative life for one of our greatest poets: would New England have been his paradise found?

Even old Ocean smiled upon him

MILTON IN AMERICA
By Peter Ackroyd
Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.99
ISBN 1 85196 046 X

The "ifs" of history can have their frivolous as well as their serious side. At King Charles's restoration in 1660, the former Foreign Office secretary Mr John Milton was in some danger of his life. During the uncertain interim between Cromwell's death and Charles's triumphant return he had manfully produced an optimistic pamphlet entitled *A Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth*. He was a well-known fanatic for the "Good Old Cause" of Independents and Free Churches. His friends besought him to go into hiding, while the crafty General Monk, outwitting his own military rivals, set about "obeying" the popular clamour for a free parliament. "Freedom", of various sorts and with varied ends in view, was very much in the air of that time. As it happened, Milton need not have worried. Supple and influential men, including his old colleague and fellow-poet, Andrew Marvell, put in a word for him. The new regime wisely decided to take no notice of the old blind Samson and leave him to get on with his yearningly allegorical

play and epic. But suppose he had determined, as many like-minded men and women of the time were doing, to take ship for the colonies, for New England and a new world? How would he have fared out there, and what would he have done? This is the question that Peter Ackroyd addresses in an altogether splendid and visionary conjuration of Puritan New England, with Milton taking a hand in its politics and religion. More concise and sardonic than *Hawkesmoor* and *Chatterton*, Ackroyd's previous novels in the same original vein, and even more mysteriously brilliant, *Milton in America* fills the reader's mind with images of extraordinary vividness: of the

New World and its effect on men's eyes and hearts; of the authority of the dedicated and high-minded artist; of poetry and politics and belief and their ambiguous relationship.

The story is told mostly by the poet himself, assisted by his full, disciple, and in some degree Sancho Panza, the boy Cinisquilli. With its echoes of *Paradise Lost* and the prose writings, the voice of Milton himself is astonishingly and successfully ventriloquial. But the tale begins with a more impersonal narration of the travellers' first landfall, a masterpiece of poetic and factual realisation.

The barque *Gabriel* is in light airs off Cape Ann, with the blind poet grown so sensitive during the long sea voyage to any prospective change of wind or course that even the captain — a godly man — defers to him. "He had, in his blindness, visualised the entire map of this region so that it had assumed full shape and volume in



Milton escapes from history

his mind; he could touch each bay or coast, and New England lay before him like a sleeper ready to awake."

Although so close, however, a sailing vessel's helplessness before vagaries of weather is well illus-

trated by abrupt misfortune, as abrupt as that which befell the poet's Satan as he voyaged towards Eden from the summit of Hell. They are blown past the mouth of what would become Boston harbour, and wrecked on the rocky shores. They all survive, however, and are presently welcomed by the pious inhabitants, such as Preserved Cotton and Seaborn Jervis, who "was reborn on the our crossing of the ocean, issuing anew through the navel of Christ". A mite confused by these local peculiarities, Milton addresses the pious fellow as "Mr Seaborn" and is gently corrected: speech and custom are rendered by Ackroyd in a manner that is totally convincing, and at the same time exquisitely funny.

Already well-known among the elect as he is, Milton's natural authority imposes itself on the local population, who before long are cheating the Indians to buy land for a fresh settlement, unani-

mously voted to be called New Milton. But the serpent in Eden soon declares itself. A courteous but roistering band of immigrants from Virginia arrives, and proves — horror of horrors — to adhere to the old Roman Catholic faith. They wear gay clothes and are accompanied by priests, and even by images of the Virgin Mary. Their leader, Kempis, is all civility to a famous poet and a blind man, and he is confident that the two communities can live in peace side by side.

But Milton is having none of that. Soon there is war in heaven, and after a prolonged struggle in which fortune and diabolic papist ingenuity sway success first to one side and then the other, the Puritans overcome their enemies and massacre or drive them out. For the moment Milton's cause has succeeded, and "the true old enthusiastic breed" (so described by King Charles II's favourite poet, Samuel Butler) is victorious. But

their enemies, though worsted, will always return.

The fantasy is amazingly powerful, as if *Paradise Lost* really had been enacted in the New World. One may doubt of course whether a thoroughgoing humanist like Milton, steeped in secular culture, would really have felt at home in the pious atmosphere of 17th-century New England.

But he would certainly have made his mark there, for good or ill, and in one way or another. Devoted to language and to poetry as he is, Ackroyd worships his glories on both sides of the political divide, but there are hints that he would himself have been happier if the sons of Belial had played a larger and more genial part in founding New England's culture.

Would Milton himself have been the first American poet? There is no reason why not: though the author has a quiet joke by mentioning his meeting with a young American who has already written an epic poem about the new continent, which he intends to call *Paradise Regained*.

Hail to the Prince of a new Europe

Peter Stothard on Machiavelli's *Livy* and its message for today

Early in the 16th century Machiavelli made some firm points about a European Union. The maximum number of member states was "12 or 14", he wrote. As the union expanded, it would inevitably become less aggressive. But it would also become sluggish, slow to make decisions and prey to external influence: it might even "serve in the military for others and take pay from this or that prince".

We can only speculate about what modern Europe's first political scientist would think of the continent today. He would certainly be pleased that Italy itself was united: one of Machiavelli's most frequent complaints was the fragmentation of the land that had once launched the Roman Empire. He would be amazed at the trust that individual EU members place in German honesty and restraint: neither word belonged to his lexicon of great nations. He would be equally astonished at the brutal successes of wars in the name of morality and Christian ideals. The preparedness of American princes to spend money on European influence would be well understood: but surely such men and such a country would not still believe in the enfolding creed of Christianity?

The reader may well stop here and ask who cares what a long dead and famously amoral Italian might have thought of us. Students of Machiavelli read him now for what he tells them of the Renaissance and not what he tells them about the EU or themselves. Few even read the work under review here and from which the opening quotation comes. They stick to *The Prince*, the tyrant's charter which, by giving only a partial account of its author's thought, has made Machiavelli a longtime adjective of abuse.

As is clear from his *Discourses on Livy*, Machiavelli had, in fact, no fixed idea of the best way to run a state. He did not see virtue only in devious autocrats. He also admired republican governments, balanced constitutions and separation of powers. What Machiavelli insisted upon was an honest appreciation of what worked. What he despised was self-delusion.

In *Livy's* account of the origins of Rome Machiavelli found the examples that he needed both to praise politicians of the past and to inspire success in future. Machiavelli also found in *Livy* the means to inspire scholars for five centuries. Within the *Discourses*, often hidden and sometimes unintended by their author, lie the seeds of modern political thought.

Livy's original portraits of Roman heroes were written with lasting power. The raped Lucretia, the fratricidal Romulus and the heroic Horatius on his bridge have long been the stories best remembered by temporary and unwilling students of Latin. It was character, the rise and fall of good and bad leaders, that drove *Livy's* drama. Were the tales true? Even by the standards of his time, *Livy* was no sceptic about his sources. Machiavelli was no better. Neither had an interest in challenging useful facts; both believed that human character was essentially unchanging.

What Machiavelli wanted to show was that human character had been too often misunderstood and its lessons misapplied. What he also showed was something more profound. By shaking the classical sense of how characters lead societies back and forth be-

tween good and bad governance, he made it possible to believe in much more radical, irreversible changes. After Machiavelli the pendulum never fell back.

Countless writers have been fascinated by Machiavelli's own swings between republican and princely virtue, between Christian and pagan vice. Hegel and Rousseau were typical in concentrating on the thoughts of Machiavelli that were closest to their own. In the 1980s Isaiah Berlin turned the inconsistency into a virtue, invoking Machiavelli as a prophet of tolerance, as a proof that no one view of good government should ever prevail.

Does a new translation of the *Discourses* suggest that there is more to be thought and said? Mansfield and Tarrow are both American academics. Their translation is careful and idiomatic, less Anglo-Saxon than Leslie Walker's almost 50-year-old version which introduced this reviewer to the text. Their introduction may alarm some sensitive purchasers by promising "to mark the four-star attractions that tourists will want to visit repeatedly". Tourists should not, however, be discouraged.

Livy and Machiavelli, both separately and together, are suitable tracts for our times. *Livy's* work was written while Rome was passing from Republic to Empire, an age like our own when peace had produced stability along with doubt, antiquarianism and some carefully directed nostalgia. Its 142 books were quickly lost (only the richest and most learned could fit *Livy* in their libraries) and needed an early renaissance at another transitional time in Europe: the end of the 4th century when Christian authority was crushing the last Romans whom *Livy* might have recognised as his own. Machiavelli began his own work on *Livy* at a still more pivotal point in European thought, when the political authority of Pope and Emperor, joint inheritors of *Livy's* Rome, was collapsing before his eyes.

All over Europe today people are looking back into their pasts for lost certainties. Those who want to understand the nationalist spirit of *Livy* should heed too the spirit of Machiavelli's *Livy*, its intelligence, its courage, its inconsistencies and the author's humbling half-comprehension of where his ideas would lead.

The author is Editor of *The Times*

SATURDAY BOOKS

Marcel Berlins on Ruth Rendell's sinister world

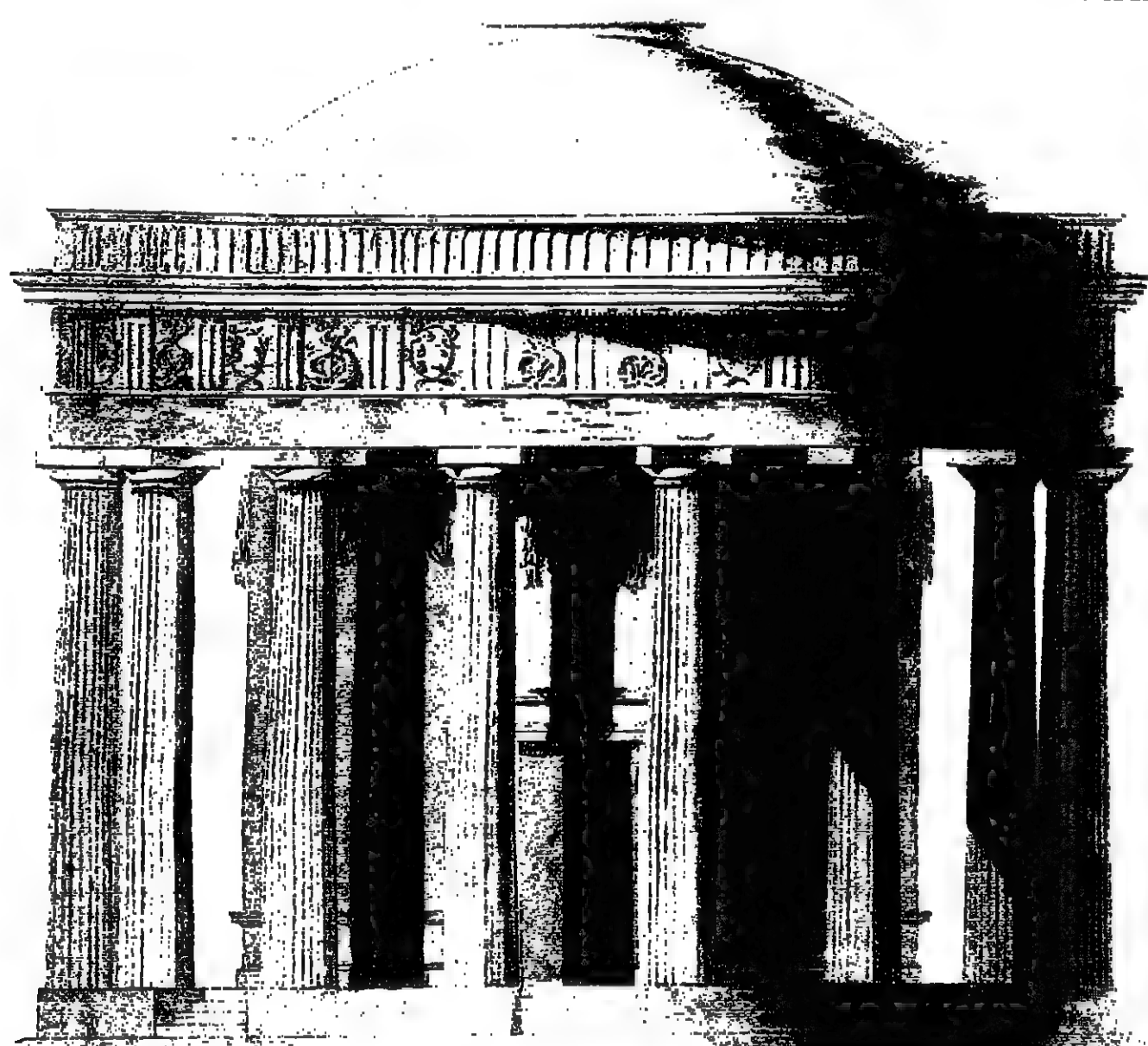
Elizabeth Buchan on the *Asylum* of Patrick McGrath

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Len Deighton and Dick Francis

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Capturing the spirit of antiquity: a design for the Temple of Friendship by Charles Cameron (1779) which was built on the peninsula at Pavlovsk the following year

How to enchant an empress

Superficially, Charles Cameron (1740-1811) enjoyed a glittering architectural career. The son of a carpenter, he used his skills in drawing as an escape route from the humble world of a London craftsman; the obligatory period in Italy led to a book on the Roman baths, followed by a call to serve the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great.

Although Cameron had never built anything before his arrival in St Petersburg in 1780, he soon embarked upon a succession of buildings and landscapes that transformed the role of house and park in Russia. In particular, his interiors displayed such a combination of erudition and enchantment as to place Cameron among the most imaginative architects of the Neo-Classical period.

There was, however, a downside to all this. Cameron was secretive and enigmatic, even appropriating an aristocratic pedigree in his quest for preferment. His extravagance and overbearing nature won him enemies at court and provoked endless investigations into his building accounts. He spent the latter part of Catherine's reign in limbo and managed to alienate her son, the Grand Duke Paul, as well.

Finally rehabilitated in the reign of Alexander I, he lost interest in his great projects, accomplishing little before his death. Evidently, Cameron's life was strewn with obstacles, many of which were the result of an obstinate personality; yet his early years in Russia witnessed a remarkable outpouring of architectural genius, works which his rival Quarenghi justly pronounced "as splendid as they are original".

Dimitri Shvidkovsky's *The Empress and the Architect* chronicles the extraordinary career of Charles Cameron in Russia, focusing upon his two greatest achievements, the additions to Catherine's retreat,

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Bruce Boucher

THE EMPRESS AND
THE ARCHITECT
British Architecture and
Gardens at the Court of
Catherine the Great

By Dimitri Shvidkovsky
Yale University Press, £29.95
ISBN 0 300 06561 7

Tsar'skoye Selo, and the estate of Pavlovsk. His patroness wanted to create "a Graeco-Roman Rhapsody" and gave Cameron the financial backing to turn his dreams of antiquity into reality.

His suite of rooms and gallery at Tsarskoye Selo were novel recreations of a Classical ambience, bold in their combination of colours and rare marbles as well as making use of modern materials like porcelain and Chinese lacquer. His juxtaposition of unexpected spaces,

vaults and domes reflected his study of the Roman baths as interpreted by Palladio and Chriesseau.

The Grand Duke's estate at Pavlovsk offered an even greater opportunity to design a Palladian villa embedded in a picturesque landscape, and Cameron moulded house and grounds together so brilliantly that the latter were mistakenly believed to be the work of "Capability" Brown.

Like Palladio or Robert Adam, Cameron realised that modern architecture could never achieve greatness simply by imitating Classical motifs; instead, it had to recapture the spirit of antiquity, which often meant bending the rules in order to transcend them. Whether planning an aviary or a staircase, Cameron brought flair and a meticulous knowledge of design to his task, and the results were rarely less than remarkable. His sensitivity to site made his

garden architecture intensely poetic, as 19th-century views of Pavlovsk attest.

Shvidkovsky is well placed to assess Cameron's work, for he knows the buildings intimately and seems equally at home with Russian and English Neo-Classicism. His illustrations vividly evoke Cameron's works and their original context, making this one of the most beautiful books on architecture to appear in recent years.

The Empress of his title may not dominate the pages of Shvidkovsky's book, but the force of her personality comes through in anecdotes and the begging letters sent by her thirty-something son, who was chronically short of funds for Pavlovsk. "One must suppose," Catherine replied to one of them, "that you are being constantly robbed and are therefore in need although you lack nothing."

that's the way they still train surgeons — to leave their humanity pickled somewhere in the medical dissection room?

The story descends to the level of black farce when Sandra Gilbert is then offered a glass of water and handed a folder labelled "Bereavement Package" by a woman wearing a badge identifying her as from the "Office of Decedent Services".

Every year more than one in a hundred Americans admitted to hospital will suffer from the terrible effects of medical malpractice. Through her complex analysis of legal and medical questions, Sandra Gilbert demonstrates convincingly how vulnerable we all are to the power of the medical establishment.

But *Wrongful Death* is more than that: it is a gripping whodunit, a passionate polemic, a beautifully written narrative which employs time shifts worthy of any modern novel and a profound account of grief. Both tough and tender, it epitomises Elizabeth Barrett Browning's lines: "Weep and write." A curse from the depths of womanhood? Is very salt and bitter, and good.

Scathing poetry of the mourning thing

Bel Mooney

WRONGFUL DEATH
By Sandra M. Gilbert
Norton, £15.99
ISBN 0 393 03211 5

way they were treated by the doctors. There are hundreds of families who believe their bereavement to be the result of medical malpractice. They are not blessed with the gift of language like Elliot Gilbert's wife, Sandra M. Gilbert — the poet, Professor of English Literature and distinguished literary critic.

Denied a proper explanation for her husband's death, forced to accept what she considers an inadequate settlement of her lawsuit against the Medical Center,

ment, she has done what her friend Toni Morrison called "the mourning thing". She has flayed those whose apparent carelessness caused her husband to die. Thus she speaks for all those other, silent victims of the doctors' old boys' network, not to mention those caught in the labyrinthine complexities of the law — which may have the "knowledge", but for reasons which seem largely to be political, cannot apply it to the satisfaction of the bereaved family.

In the first chapter, Sandra Gilbert sums up the case she will enlarge on: "... my husband didn't die from a heart attack. On the contrary he died of medical neglect; indeed he might have died because someone in the recovery room failed to get the results of a simple blood test. Failed, in other words, to notice that amidst the efficient

bustle of a modern recovery room, in a major American medical center — indeed a teaching hospital — while my daughters and I were dutifully picking at the restaurant dinner the doctor had told us to go out and eat, my husband was in truly mortal danger."

THE SURGEON in question was a Dr Ralph W. deVere White, and this book must make shaming reading for him. He comes across not only as a cavalier "stage Irishman" with a line in evasive blame, but as a man who could actually say of his patient "he was dying". He has the insolence to tell Sandra Gilbert, by the body of her dead husband, that although his death is "unpleasant and awful" for her, for him it is "shattering". Why? Because he feels guilty? Or because

Not so happy ever after

Bereaved families to sue over Cyprus drownings

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

BRITISH tourists, who lost family or friends in drowning accidents off a notorious stretch of the Cyprus coast, are to sue their travel companies claiming the firms failed to warn them about potential holiday hazards.

Six Britons are among at least a dozen people, including locals, who have drowned in the popular resort of Paphos, in southwest Cyprus, in the past few years.

Eighteen months ago three Scottish holidaymakers, David and Moira Haldane and their friend Margot Bryson drowned only minutes after going for a swim near their hotel in Helios Bay, Paphos.

In May this year Frederick Blagg, a retired police superintendent, died in the same bay when he was swept underwater by powerful currents only moments after wading in. And two other British tourists have drowned in the area in the past four months.

Now some of the bereaved want compensation, claiming they were not warned about the sea in that area and the risks posed by swimming. Peter Watson, the solicitor who is acting for John Bryson and the Haldanes' children, Diane and John, is preparing a writ for negligence on their tour operator First Choice, formerly Olympic.

"These holidays are sold as beach-based," he said. "It's not chance that holidaymakers will go in the water, it's the reason they're there. You should not sell a swimming holiday when the swimming poses risks unless you are prepared to bring those risks to their attention."

Wendy Blagg has also begun legal action against Thomson. She said there was a sign in English warning holidaymakers not to go in the sea if it was rough, but the sea was calm. "There was no mention of the currents in Thomson's brochure, and the rep at the resort didn't say anything. All we needed to know was that caution was needed even on the calmest days. Holiday companies have a responsibility to point that out."

The British High Commission in Nicosia said fatalities had run into dozens in the area in the past few years and warned tourists to take extra care. But a spokeswoman for the Cyprus Tourist Board said all public beaches in Cyprus had lifeguards and a flag system to warn holidaymakers when the sea was rough, although many non-

municipal beaches were popular with tourists. "Strong currents can be a freak of nature," she said. "However, we are always looking at ways we can improve safety."

First Choice Holiday said it now gave a general warning about the dangers of sea bathing. "When we're aware of known hazards we will also try and bring them to holidaymakers' attention," Thomson said. It was looking into criticisms raised to ensure that safety provision was adequate.

Skiing: the shape of things to come

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

POLICE patrols on the ski slopes to combat uncontrolled skiers, drunks and thieves could become the norm, the 1997 edition of *The Good Skiing Guide* claims today.

Aspen in Colorado was the first to introduce uniformed officers on skis two years ago, and the Italian resort of Courmayeur brought them to Europe for the first time last winter. Two officers were on duty at any one time and, although their arrest record was almost non-existent, cases of ski thefts fell from 37 to just one.

The guide also predicts that, the changing face of skiing will see adults wearing helmets, until now the preserve of racers and children, but first seen in America last season. "Ten years ago the average cyclist would have scoffed at the idea of wearing a helmet but now would not set off without one," its authors, Peter Hardy and Felice Eyston, say.

The Austrian village of Lech sets an example for the future with its policy of limiting the maximum number of skiers on any day to 14,000. "We skied there on the busiest weekend of the year and never had to wait more than five minutes for a lift. It is disappointing that other overcrowded resorts have not seen fit to follow its example."

But in the long run, expense may solve the problem. "Skiing in the main Alpine countries is now so expensive that there is a danger of travel firms and resorts pricing themselves out of the bidding," says the guide.

Prices have inflated dramatically in France, less so in Switzerland, while Austria is marginally cheaper, the guide's authors say. The twin success stories were Italy and Canada, which both had low prices and excellent snow conditions.

The guide strikes a note of caution for both countries, however. Tour operators negotiating rates with Canadian hoteliers for this coming winter found them asking up to 30 per cent more, especially in Whistler. "A combination of greed and a slow strengthening of the Canadian dollar threatens the Canadian success story," the guide says.

Italy has enjoyed two seasons of bountiful snow but they should not be regarded as the norm, as several disastrous years in the 1980s showed. Prices there have risen by only 3 to 5 per cent.

The British ski market is in better shape than at any time since the beginning of the 1980s and there is a rejuvenated interest in winter holidays, particularly because of the growth of snowboarding.

Gatwick sheds 'bucket and spade' image

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

HOLIDAY airlines are being squeezed out of Gatwick during the most popular times of the day as the airport loses its "bucket and spade" image.

Charter airlines are also being pressured, sometimes with the help of a cash "sweetener", to switch their flights to Stansted or other regional airports and allow international scheduled airlines to take over the most popular take-off and landing slots.

Gatwick had become known as Britain's main package holiday airport dominated by charter flights, especially during the peak holiday season. And scheduled airlines had struggled to survive at the airport, which was often bypassed by businessmen who headed to Heathrow to find a bigger choice of scheduled flights and to avoid the backpackers and holidaymakers.

But now Gatwick, which will handle 26 million passengers this year, is becoming known as an international "hub" which this year will, for the first time, handle more scheduled services than holiday charter flights.

While the number of charters has fallen by 10 per cent in the past 12 months, the number of scheduled services has risen by 15 per cent.

The demand for more Gatwick services, however, has meant that the airport is now full for much of the day, especially during the morning and evening peaks. As the fight to find a suitable slot intensifies, so scheduled airlines are going to ever-greater lengths to persuade charters to hand them over.

"Slot allocation is supposed to be open and controlled through a committee," said one airline official. "But to obtain a slot at the right time, scheduled carriers are grabbing ones which they may have no intention of using, then arranging to swap them for others at more popular times — and handing over money to make it worthwhile for the smaller chap."

Eric Lomas, the airport's managing director, said: "It is now very difficult to get a commercially acceptable slot for two thirds of the day, and between 0600 and noon the airport is full."

"It is already difficult for new charters to get in and we are encouraging them to think of moving to Stansted."

British Airways alone has moved hundreds of scheduled flights from Heathrow to Gatwick and more are to make the switch within the next few months. Last year BA had 700 scheduled flights a week carrying under two million passengers. This year the numbers grew to 900 flights and six million passengers and next year there will be more than 1,000 scheduled BA flights each week from Gatwick.

Most significant, however, has been the rapid growth in the number of transfer passengers — people changing planes and helping to turn Gatwick into an international "hub". Two years ago, fewer than 17 per cent of passengers changed at Gatwick; this year it is 35 per cent.

BA is to move its Latin America services to Gatwick, together with flights to Barcelona, Helsinki, Oporto, Lisbon and Glasgow. Other airlines, such as Alitalia and Iberia, are also moving in and the long-haul scheduled airlines are applying for landing rights or abandoning their own plans to move to Heathrow.

Commission that sales can be controlled effectively. Favourite is the development of an electronic smartcard. A tiny microchip would be loaded with details of each passenger, including passport number or identity card details and the duty-free allowance to which they were entitled. These would be distributed to anyone who contemplated buying duty-free. Tills would be programmed to "read" the cards and prevent anyone from exceeding their allowance, and a record would be kept of what was bought by each passenger.

Another proposal is to abandon the sale of duty-free goods on aircraft and instead to compensate airlines by giving them a share of the profits of goods sold at airports.

Now the travel and duty-free industries have produced a series of schemes which they hope will satisfy the European

Travel firms cash in on the football boom

By TONY DAVE

AS THE England football team flies to Moldova at the start of a two-year campaign to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals, travel firms are cashing in on the fresh enthusiasm for the game.

They are offering an increasing number of packages not only to see the national and club sides play in Europe but to watch top Italian, Spanish and Dutch games. In a unique deal, one firm has even teamed up with a Premiership club to offer business as well as sports travel to the companies which support the club.

Phoenix Travel, a leading independent company, has set up the Sky Blue Travel agency with Coventry City in the hope of benefiting from sponsors' loyalty to the club, nicknamed the "Sky Blues" because of the colour of their kit.

"The club has 400 corporate sponsors and some of them will spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on business travel," David Claydon, the new company's sales director says.

"We are trying to get that business by pointing out that the companies will be helping the club they support as well as getting a good service."

Sky Blue Travel is already handling the team's travel arrangements and looks after trips abroad by its overseas stars such as Peter Ndlovu of Zimbabwe to play for their countries, and by officials scouting for more foreign talent.

"Supporters who go to see away games are looked after by Coventry City's own travel club but if instead of struggling against relegation the team could get into Europe then we would step in to arrange travel for fans as well as players and officials," Claydon adds.

Several travel firms are already offering one and two-day tours to European cities to tie in with the first matches being played in European competitions this season by Manchester United, Newcastle United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Aston Villa.



Sky Blue Travel arranges overseas trips for Coventry City's Zimbabwean star Peter Ndlovu

Firms including Italitour and David Dryer Sports Tours also provide packages for less xenophobic fans to see the best matches in the Italian Serie A league. "The way forward for niche companies like ours is to spread our network to cover more events all over the world," Mr Dryer says.

"There is a growing market for trips to the San Siro stadium, Milan, to the Nou Camp to see Barcelona play and to the New Stadium, Amsterdam, to watch Ajax but

there is also interest in other sports."

Mr Dryer's company is about to launch regular four-day packages to New York to take in major basketball and ice hockey matches at Madison Square Garden and is negotiating to become the official tour operator for the new Olympic sport of beach volleyball.

"There is a very big market for the fan who once a year wants to watch football in Italy, a big fight in the United States or tennis in Paris," Mr Dryer adds.

Sports such as cricket and rugby, in addition to football, already have their travelling armies of fans and even after the England team's Test defeat by Pakistan this week companies including Sport Abroad and Mike Burton Sports Travel expect hundreds of fans to take up their packages combining holidays with England's winter Test matches in Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Can 'smartcards' save beleaguered duty-frees?

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

PLANS to issue millions of "smartcards" to European holidaymakers and businessmen are being drawn up as part of a last-ditch attempt to prevent the abolition of duty-free sales.

The European Commission has ruled that the concessions must end by June 1999 and condemned the existing voluntary policing methods used by member states to prevent abuses. It claimed that thousands of passengers were buying duty-free goods both in the airport and again on the aircraft itself, making a mockery of the allowance agreed by all European members.

Now the travel and duty-free industries have produced a series of schemes which they hope will satisfy the European

Florida is top of the pops

By STEVE KEENAN

FLORIDA is continuing its summer surge in popularity through to the winter, with bookings up by more than 50 per cent on 1995-96. This demand has seen sales rise by 27 per cent, the biggest rise in any mainstream destination and largely due to operators putting on more capacity.

With long-haul holidays in general in great demand, the Caribbean is also doing well with more than double the number of sunseekers booked by the end of July.

Across the board, winter

bookings are up 28 per cent over last year as thousands of Britons, unable to get the summer holiday of their choice, opt for a winter sun holiday instead.

Paul Wedgwood, commercial product manager at Thomas Cook, said: "Some people have felt they were left out of the summer activity where there were fewer holidays available and higher prices than they expected. Some are transferring their holidays to winter."

To the end of July, nearly

three quarters of a million people had booked a winter sun or skiing holiday, compared with 570,000 at the same time last year. Figures for July bookings alone were up 39 per cent.

Apart from Florida, the biggest winners this summer have been Italy, up 11 per cent, and Turkey, up 9 per cent. The biggest losers have been Cyprus and the Greek Islands (-24 per cent); the Canary Islands and France (-16); Portugal (-14) and the Balearic Islands (-13).



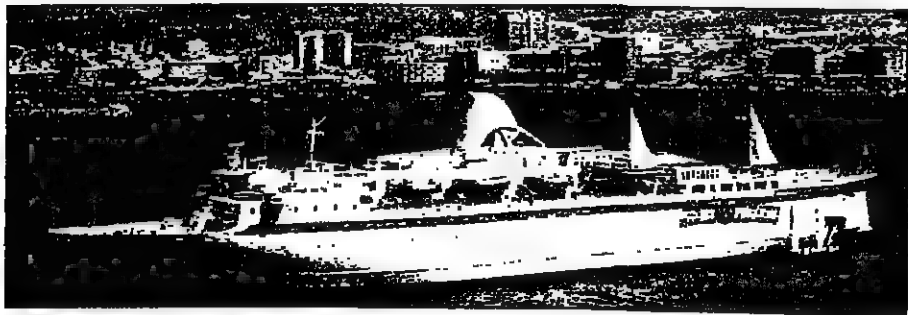
Florida: bookings are up by more than 50 per cent

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Footballers must follow a different train of thought

Can an Olympic sprinter save English football? It's a thought prompted by the latest signing down at Ruud Gullit's multi-national Chelsea. This time it is not another Italian or Frenchman to strengthen Vialli, Di Matteo, Leboeuf and crew — but a British athlete, Ade Mafe, who joins the squad as "fitness coach".

Mafe, who was a 200 metres finalist at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984, is convinced, as many have been before him, that the fitness of many of our professional footballers is appalling when compared with the conditioning of track and field athletes. And the ever-growing intake of foreign players into the game is making it ever more evident how our players are falling behind the fitness standards required of international players.

Kevin Keegan, who knows more than most about European methods, tells a great story about the first time that Faustino Asprilla turned up for training at

Newcastle United. He did a tough session of weight-training and running that lasted for almost two hours. At the end of it he asked cheerfully, "What time do you want me back this afternoon?" The question of training twice a day would simply baffle most British players, who have been raised on the tradition that the afternoon is theirs to go along to the pub or the

'The idea of training twice a day would baffle most players'

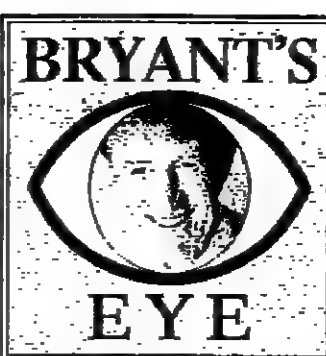
billiard hall, and that a touch of exercise in the morning is quite enough.

The pattern, like so much else in British sport, is a hangover from the past, when most players were little more than part-time professionals. In the Fifties, footballers who were paid a couple of pounds a week used to train till noon and

then take off to be plumbers or electricians in the afternoon. But to someone like Mafe such an approach by today's highly paid professional is madness. And, in the Chelsea supporters' magazine, he spells out some tough warnings to any player stuck in the time-war of football's past.

"If they go down to the pub in the afternoon, I will not stop them," he said. "But if they are feeling rough the next day, and I am training them, they are going to have to be ready for me." It is clear that Mafe, who spent the best years of his sprinting life working out with the likes of Linford Christie and Carl Lewis, is not going to let the football players get away with fantasy fitness.

Nor should they. Never before has so much been known about the science of sporting excellence and the most effective ways to guarantee superior performance. There is no need, and no excuse these days, to use guesswork and unproven dressing-room lore to draw up physical training programmes. In-



creasingly, football around the world has been turning to sports scientists and to track and field experts to tap into detailed information about physiology, biomechanics, nutrition and psychology. Chelsea are just the latest in the history of teams that have turned to fitness gurus to knock them into shape.

Nottingham Forest have used a former body-builder and marathon runner, Peter Edwards, who spent years in Italy studying how Italian players keep in shape. At

one stage Edwards had the Forest squad sprinting with mini parachutes harnessed to their backs to boost their leg power.

In Scotland, the former professional sprinter, George McNeill, has worked with Hearts, and over the seasons other athletes, including Sebastian Coe (Chelsea), Joe Lancaster (Manchester City), and the one-time national director of coaching, Frank Dick, have all been called upon to stop players from wilting in the second half.

One of the more unlikely sounding fitness gurus was Len Heppell, father-in-law of the former Newcastle and West Ham United footballer, Bryan "Pop" Robson. Heppell, who advised clubs including Manchester City and West Ham, was an expert on table tennis and ballroom dancing. His speciality was to advise players on balance, and he is reckoned to have done wonders for Clyde Best.

Along at Chelsea, Mafe promises to keep a sharp eye on what the players eat and drink. Athletes have long known that, by manipu-

lating the carbohydrate in your diet, you can dramatically boost endurance, and with a large percentage of goals being scored in the last quarter of a match, the team with the best nutritional knowledge could be the team getting them.

Apart from pasta-loading and twice-a-day training sessions, Mafe might also take a look at

'Half-time tea is another quaint British tradition'

changing another quaint British footballing tradition — half-time tea. This is that strange 15-minute period when British players gulp strong tea while being bawled out by their manager. In Scandinavian clubs, by contrast, players have taken the advice of the best sports scientists and move into the gym at half-time for light exercises

and stretching, while topping up on carbohydrate-replacing sports drinks.

If Mafe is looking for some stimulating half-time exercise at Stamford Bridge, he might consider a stunt pulled by West Ham in the late 1950s. The great sprint star of the time, E. McDonald Bailey, sometime co-holder of the world 100 metres record and a winner of 14 AAAs titles, thought British footballers were hopelessly unfit and taunted West Ham by betting that none of them could match the speed of the fastest woman in the land.

Brian's sprint queen of the time was Dorothy Hyman, a girl who ran for Hickleton Main Youth Club. She could run 100 metres in 11.5sec and, try as they might, none of the West Ham team could get near it.

Of course, Mafe will find that things have moved on a bit in British football since then — but, sadly, not a lot.

JOHN BRYANT

GOLF: SOUTH AFRICAN OPENS UP TWO-SHOT ADVANTAGE ON RAIN-SHORTENED FIRST DAY OF BRITISH MASTERS

Levenson becomes unlikely leader with opening 66

By MEL WEBB

WHO said that it is better to travel than to arrive? Try putting that to Gavin Levenson, who went through all manner of tortures to get from Johannesburg to England earlier this week, then shot a 66 in the first round of the One Two British Masters at Collingtree Park yesterday to take a two-stroke lead. Of the two, the South African put getting here a poor second to being here.

Levenson, 42, has been a PGA European Tour player since 1979, and has won twice in Europe, but has finished 14th, 122nd and 135th in the Order of Merit in the past three years. This season his record is even worse — he is 172nd with less than £14,000 in the kitty. It is not, on the face of it, the career profile of a man who is likely, or even capable, of leading after the first round of a £700,000 championship.

Four days ago he was not even in the tournament, let alone heading for the lead. He started the week as fifth reserve, then got a telephone call at midday on Monday from Sue Lloyd, the Tour's membership secretary, who told him that he had moved up to third, and how did he feel about coming to England?

Levenson thought about it, and on balance decided he would; when he was informed that he had moved up to first alternate, that settled it. He thought he had plenty of time, he thought the tournament did not start until Thursday. Not so, he was told — the first round was on Wednesday. Panic ensued.

Several increasingly desperate and fruitless telephone calls later, he had been offered a bargain-basement flight by British Airways — a snip at less than £400 return. BA's claim that it is the world's favourite airline may or may not be true, but it is certainly Levenson's.

By the time that he got on the plane, he had got a definite start, achieved when Mark McNulty, an old friend,

It seemed to do him a power of good because, in his first competitive round since he missed the cut in the French Open in June, he had eight birdies, eight pars and only two bogeys. He also had a mere 23 putts, an initially impressive figure that did not hold up so well to close examination — he missed 11 greens and had to rely on some sharp chipping to put him close to the hole.

It was a quantum leap from last Saturday, when Levenson was working the crowds at The Presidents, a nine-hole course in the grounds of Nelson Mandela's residence in Pretoria. He is heavily involved in the development of the game in South Africa, and on Monday he was calling in the pledges that he had received from some of the country's leading businessmen. Now he has gone from fundraiser for others to money-maker for himself.

Levenson ended the curtailed day — play was suspended twice for thunder, lightning and rain before being abandoned at 6.45 with half the field still on the course — two strokes ahead of Colin Montgomerie, who made not a semblance of a mistake in his four-birdie 68.

Montgomerie was his usual massively impressive self, driving straight and putting solidly. If form and innate class counts for anything, the Scot will still be in contention come Saturday and Levenson will not. Yes, golf is a funny old game — but not that funny, surely.

FIRST ROUND

Great Britain and Ireland entries scored:
66: G Levenson (SA), 68: C Montgomerie (SC), 69: J Coles (AUS), R Russell (AUS), 70: D Galt (AUS), D Galt (AUS), M Clayton (AUS), M Rose, E Canonica (IT), 71: S Sorenstam (US), P Hedstrom (SWE), 72: S Sorenstam (US), D Galt (AUS), J Hargreaves (SWE), S Ames (FIN), K Eriksson (SWE), J Chapman (AUS), M Davis (AUS), 73: M Fearn (SWE), M Joronen (SWE), C Cavers (FIN), T Borm (DEN), J Sorenstam (SWE), P Harrington (AUS), 74: P Harrington (AUS), D Hooper (AUS), 75: S Sorenstam (US), J van de Velde (FR), D Rothery (AUS), S McAlister, N Briggs, 76: J Armer (AUS), S Durr, D Smyth, M A James (AUS), P Lindgren (SWE), G Flett, G Evans, R Coles, P Allcock, T Planchon (FR), 77: S Sorenstam (US), J Hawaworth, J Garcia, H P Hurd (AUS), J Townsend (AUS), P Eales, D Williams, G Clark, C Sorenstam (SWE), M A Martin (SWE).

dropped out. McNulty, it is fair to say, is now even more firmly cemented in Levenson's affections.

He just had time to phone Mick Jones, his English caddy, and tell him to decamp to Northampton as swiftly as he could and, before Jones's arrival, managed to get in a practice round on Tuesday with the help of several friendly caddies, who carried his bag for three or four holes each.



Levenson chips at the 17th on his way to a six-under-par 66 at Collingtree Park

Solheim Cup hopefuls await Walker's choice



Walker: five wild cards

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN ORSERBO, SWEDEN

THE complications, computations and calculations will all be resolved come Sunday but in the meantime the game of "Pick Your Solheim Cup Team" is still on, with the focus of attention on the inaugural women's Compaq Open, which starts here in the Swedish countryside west of Stockholm today.

The peaceful, rural surroundings are in stark contrast to the burnings of the players in contention for a place in Europe's side to play the United States at St Pierre, Chesham, next month. Mickey Walker, the Europe

captain, has five wild cards to use and three of them will go to the Swedish trio of Liselotte Neumann, Helen Alfredsson and Catrin Nilsmark. They will join Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Laura Davies, Alison Nicholas, Lisa Hackney and Annika Sorenstam, who are assured of finishing in the top seven on the Solheim Cup points table. Then the fun starts.

Trish Johnson, a stalwart of the previous three matches, is sixth on the table, but she is not here today and if she is knocked out of the top seven, her experience will ensure her the fourth wild card.

At the moment, Lora Fairclough, the Lancastrian

who made her Solheim Cup debut at The Greenbrier two years ago, is hanging on to seventh place but it is still mathematically possible for both her and Johnson to be overtaken by one or other of the three players next on the list: Joanne Morley, Patricia Meunier Leboeuf and Karina Orum.

Fairclough's brief this week is deceptively simple. It is to stay ahead of Morley, who tied for second, behind Sorenstam, at the Tryggv Hansa Open near Stockholm last week. Leboeuf and Orum. To that extent, her Solheim Cup place is still in her own hands.

But it was not the case for Carin HJ Koch, of Sweden, nor

for the Scots, Kathryn Marshall and Dale Reid. They must rely on Walker's largesse. Koch, who plays most of her golf in the United States now, missed the cut in Stockholm last week and, like all the peripheral players, is feeling the strain.

Marshall, who relished the travelling, but non-playing reserve — a position now abolished — at The Greenbrier, desperately wants to be on the team but her form, both in Europe and the US this season, has been indifferent. She shared sixth place at the Tryggv Hansa but it might prove too little, too late.

If Johnson needs a wild card, that will leave only one

and Walker thinks an awful lot of Reid. The 37-year-old from Ladybank has finished in the top ten only twice this season, but she has played in all three matches so far, and she loves beating Americans. She might not even need to make the cut this week to be in the side.

All the foregoing assumptions are just that: assumptions. In the end, two people will pick themselves and Walker's gut instinct will decide the rest.

SOLHEIM CUP STANDINGS: 1. M4, de Lorenzi (FR) 1,725; 2. L Davies (GB) 619; 3. A Nicholas (GB) 615; 4. L Hargreaves (GB) 604; 5. A Sorenstam (US) 600; 6. T Johnson (GB) 598; 7. L Fairclough (GB) 570; 8. J Morley (GB) 561; 9. P Meunier Leboeuf (FR) 452; 10. K Orum (Den) 424.

Connolly adds to Harlequins' wealth of talent

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby union clubs have now completed the signing of virtually the entire Wigan rugby league back division, with the recruitment of Gary Connolly to the refurbished Harlequins. Only Kris Radlinski and Shaun Edwards have not found a temporary union home as their colleagues take a closer look at a sport which, a year ago, was forbidden territory.

Connolly, the powerful Great Britain centre, would have toured in the Southern Hemisphere in October but for the bar placed upon him by the Australian Rugby League, in the wake of their dispute with the Super League. Thus Connolly, 25, is free to accept a short-term contract (until January) with Harlequins as is the similarly-placed Jason Robinson at Bath.

But the Harlequins purse is also long enough to afford Robbie Paul, younger brother of Henry, who signed for Bath earlier this month. Robbie, 20, is mature enough to have captained Bradford Bulls this summer and is, arguably, one of the most exciting players in world rugby; not only can he play in virtually any position behind the scrum, he also kicks goals.

"We have assembled a squad I am very pleased with," Richard Best, director of rugby at the Stoop, said yesterday. "It's so new it will take time to get in the groove but the honeymoon period we have enjoyed so far has worked well." Not that Harlequins will put all their twinkling stars on display in the first league match of the season, against Gloucester on Saturday, but four of their new internationals will play in the pack.

The backs will include Will Carling, the former England captain who was omitted from England's latest training squad of 43, along with Rory Underwood, Jeremy Guscott and Dean Richards. The distinguished quartet were overlooked last month for training purposes. Carling, tongue not noticeably in his cheek, described Connolly as "probably the best rugby centre in Britain" but the Wigan player acknowledged the need to find his feet.

"Rugby union is kicking off in a big way, I enjoyed the game with Bath last May and I hope there are things I can take from union, as well as give to it," he said. That cross-code match at Twickenham is his only experience of union and Connolly accepts short-

term contracts will not create the finished article. "But, if we have a couple of years' experience, maybe we can make ourselves into international rugby union players."

Even though union clubs have accepted a substantial portion of the Wigan wage bill, the quality of players arriving at Harlequins and Bath is an implicit threat to league. Connolly and Henry Paul have already admitted a growing interest in the financial opportunities that union can offer, as well as the chance

TRAINING SQUAD

BACKS: M Galt (Bath), T Simpson (Newcastle), A Adebayo (Bath), D Lupton (Harlequins), J Naylor (Oxford), J Slingshot (Bath), T Underwood (Newcastle), A Byth (Newcastle), P de la Garza (Bath), W Greenwood (Leicester), M Greenwood (Wasps), D Hooper (Wasps), P Chalmers (Harlequins), P Grayson (Northampton), A King (Wasps), K Bracken (Isaracans), M Dawson (Northampton), A Gomersall (Wasps), A Hareley (Leicester).
FORWARDS: D Sorenstam (Leicester), R Harwood (Coventry), J Leonard (Bath), J Mallet (Bath), G Rowntree (Leicester), R Cockfield (Leicester), P Greening (Gloucester), M McCarthy (Bath), M Regan (Bath), G Archer (Newcastle), J Fowler (Bath), M Johnson (Leicester), D Sims (Gloucester), S Shaw (Bristol), R West (Richmond), B Clarke (Richmond), M Dory (Bristol), A Dipace (Saracens), L Delgado (Wasps), R H B (Saracens), S O'Brien (Bath), T Rodder (Northampton), P Schreiner (Wasps), C Sheasay (Wasps).

to play cross-border matches, and Robinson is of the same ilk.

His move to Bath was confirmed after it became clear that Simon Goughguy would not start the season. The operation on his toes required by the Irish wing has yet to prove successful, leaving Bath with Jon Slingshot and Adebayo Adebayo and the young newcomer, Michael Horne, to cover the flanks. But England's management may note that one of their squad, Steve Ojomuh, has been ousted from Bath's back row against Orrell on Saturday by Richard Webster, the former Wales international who has joined from Salford.

The only newcomer to the England training squad which meets at Bisham Abbey next Wednesday is Richard West, who takes the place of the injured Martin Bayfield. West, capped during the World Cup, has moved from Gloucester to Richmond after a disappointing 1995-96 and gets his chance after a pelvic injury to Bayfield.

The selection policy has been consistent even though Carling may suggest, quite legitimately, that the younger players could benefit by rubbing shoulders with the likes of Guscott and Underwood.

BOWLS: WORCESTERSHIRE PAIR SNATCH THRILLING VICTORY AT WORTHING

Allcock denied by final delivery

By GORDON ALLAN

THE English Bowling Association (EBA) pairs championship continues to elude Tony Allcock, who needs it to complete a full set of titles. In a splendid final at Worthing yesterday, he and his Cheltenham partner, Andrew Willis, were beaten 20-19 by Ian Maddox and Rob Stanley, of the Bank House Hotel club, near Worcester.

Maddox and Stanley, in their first season as a partnership, went into the last end leading 20-17. A few minutes later, with one bowl left, Stanley stood on the mat facing a match tie, four shots down. The situation called for

a classic pressure shot and Stanley, to his great credit, produced it, trailing the jack to cut the Cheltenham count to two.

Willis and Allcock had the edge in the early stages but Maddox and Stanley tied the scores twice and led 16-10 after 15 ends, before dropping a five on the sixteenth. Two doubles took the Worcestershire pair to 20-16, setting the scene for the tense closing act.

Those hoping for an all-Cumbria final were disappointed, both Wigan pairs losing in the semi-finals. Willis and Allcock beat Ron Gass and John Bell, the 1991 champions, 22-15 and Maddox and Stanley eliminated Paul Bar-

low and Stephen Farish by 22-5. Gass and Bell, after a discouraging start, got as close as 16-15 at 18 ends. In the other match, everything ran for Maddox and Stanley, and Barlow and Farish conceded at 16 ends.

Farish will hope for consolation in the singles, a tide he won four years ago. He won his preliminary round match yesterday, beating Andy Meikle, of Saxmoundham, 21-12. There are three other past champions in the field this year — Allcock, John Outway and John Wickham.

The holders of the national outdoor and indoor pairs titles were among the early casualties at the Double Century

women's championships at Royal Leamington Spa. Norma Beales and Mary Price, from Buckinghamshire, the defending champions, lost to Sharon and Mavis Wellington, of Devon, while Mandy Jacklin and Catherine Anton, their indoor counterparts, went out to Dorothy Gibbons and Ina Foote, of Middlesex.

Wellington, who came in for one match when Norma Shaw fell ill during the world championships earlier this month, enjoyed her return to Victoria Park, partnering her daughter-in-law to an exciting victory, gained with a single on the extra end.

Results, page 42

RUGBY LEAGUE: INJURED SCRUM HALF EXTENDS CONTRACT AT WIGAN

Edwards doubtful for autumn tour

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SHAUN EDWARDS has secured his long-term future at Wigan after rumblings of discontent but, in the short-term, an injury means the Great Britain scrum half is in danger of missing the tour next month to Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand.

A knee injury has plagued Edwards for the second half of the season. He played with pain-killing injections several times. A decision will be taken shortly on whether surgery is required, in which case he would withdraw.

Edwards, who was forced by injury to miss the 1990 tour

to New Zealand, is not optimistic. "It looks as though I could be out," he said. "My knee has been troubling me recently. The surgeon has seen the scan results and I expect to see him in the next couple of weeks."

Craig Murdoch, who replaced him in the Wigan side when Edwards was controversially dropped to the substitutes' bench for three matches, would be the favourite to replace him in the Great Britain squad. Edwards has since regained his starting place at Central Park. He was linked with several clubs before the issue of his contract was finally resolved this week. Edwards, 29, has agreed a

one-year extension to his existing deal, which still has 16 months to run. "We didn't want to lose Shaun and we're just pleased that we can keep him here until the end of 1998," Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said.

Many of the smaller clubs in the first and second divisions are to meet tomorrow, amid talk of switching their season back to winter and fears about their future, with cuts in their share of the Super League television contract proposed and the move by Super League clubs to administer the elite competition themselves.

Maurice Lindsay and Sir Rodney Walker, the Rugby Football League chief execu-

tive and chairman respectively, issued a joint appeal yesterday, calling on clubs to protect the game's interests. Lindsay said: "Clubs must be allowed, on occasions, to disagree with each other. These [disagreements], however, must take place in the proper forum, when all clubs are present and when any resulting vote would be democratic and binding."

Sir Rodney supported the call for calm and said: "I fully understand why clubs from different levels of the game wish to discuss issues of common concern, but at the end of the day, all must act with the intention of protecting the true interests of rugby league."

1996/1997

Pakistan aiming to compensate for World Cup debacle

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE perverse satisfaction that England's cricket followers appear to find in defeat is frequently denied to them when the Texaco Trophy comes around. England fare so well in these mini-series that, with the exception of a whitewash by Australia three summers ago, they have seen off all comers since 1991.

This sits somewhat incongruously with the despair of a World Cup campaign, six months ago, in which England, displaying a primitive approach to a modernised limited-overs game, lost to every Test-playing nation they met. Their record of 14 wins from the past 19 completed Texaco games is now to receive a stern examination by one of those sides, Pakistan.

Old Trafford stages the first of three games today, on a bare, cracked pitch, and the ground will be filled to capacity. The same atmosphere to Edgbaston, on Saturday, and only a few tickets remain for Trent Bridge on Sunday.

England have already improved their imposing Texaco record this season in a one-sided series against India. Unaccompanied and rudderless, India lost heavily in Leeds and Manchester and would have suffered the same fate at the Oval but for the intervention of rain.

India, however, had just arrived. Pakistan have been in the country for more than two months and have demonstrated their liking for English conditions by winning the important cricket, the Test series, by an impressive margin. What is more, they have a particular incentive for maintaining the momentum through what might otherwise be thought a more trivial cabaret.

To appreciate this incentive fully, it is necessary to know that one-day cricket is thought to be anything but trivial in Pakistan. It is, indeed, literally a matter of life and death, as confirmed by the alarmingly

extreme public reaction to the failure of their team to make a successful defence of the World Cup. Losing in the quarter-finals was bad enough. Losing to India was unendurable and some grim suicide cases resulted. Wasim Akram was also quite unfairly vilified because some refused to accept that he had missed the fateful game with a genuine injury.

Pakistan captains have fallen for less but Wasim is made of tougher stuff and this tour has been a triumph for his leadership. He will be anxious to complete it with reassuring evidence, for those back home, that Pakistan can still win at the form of the game they love.

PARTIES

ENGLAND (from): M. A. Atherton (captain), N. V. Knight (vice-captain), G. P. Thorpe (captain), M. P. Maynard (captain), D. B. Lloyd (captain), R. C. Jones (captain), A. J. Hogg (captain), R. D. B. Croft (captain), D. Gough (captain), D. W. Howarth (captain), P. A. Martin (captain), A. D. Murray (captain).

PAKISTAN (from): Wasim Akram (captain), Amir Sohail (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (captain), Saqlain Mushtaq (captain), Moin Khan (captain), Mushtaq Ahmed (captain), Waqar Younis (captain), Mushtaq Reza (captain), Mohammad Asif (captain).

Umpires: G. Shopp (Eng) and N. T. Pines (Eng). Third umpire: J. W. Hilditch (Eng).

though in truth he will have mixed feelings about it. "We should play more Test cricket," he said. "In Pakistan, the one-day is killing Tests. Wasim is correct in his warning, as crowd figures emphasise, but doubtless he is also aware that the three bowlers at the heart of Pakistan's success are better suited to Test cricket."

Waqar Younis and Wasim himself are aggressive fast bowlers, who take wickets without worrying overmuch about the cost. They will win many a five-day game but, in limited-overs cricket, where bowlers need only be niggardly and nega-

tive, they can be an expensive luxury. To some degree, the same is true of their wonderful leg spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed.

Against this, Pakistan have a batting line-up ideally suited to the one-day tempo, with an opening pair, in Sohai and Anwar, who like nothing better than to biff the ball over the padded infield during the initial 15 overs. The omission of Alistair Brown, despite a century in his last international, means that England have no one accomplished in this role and their opening pair will be Michael Atherton and Nick Knight, with Alec Stewart at No. 3.

Pakistan are also favoured by a settled team. Nine of the side that beat England in Karachi in March are likely to play today but, of England's XI that day, only Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Darren Gough and Peter Martin are even included in the squad — a remarkable casualty rate, even allowing for the interim change of coach and selectors. The most startling omission is Graeme Hick and Dominic Cork who, for very different reasons, are now unlikely to be accompanying England to Zimbabwe.

New faces always stimulate interest, however, and England could include up to five newcomers. Of these, Graham Lloyd will attract particular support on his home ground but there is probably more to gain for Adam Hoggie and Dean Headley, both genuine candidates for winter tour places.

Headley, granted his opportunity only through the misdemeanours of Chris Lewis, was also a late inclusion, last winter, in the England A tour to Pakistan, on which he was the most effective bowler. Injuries have hampered him this summer but, if ever there was an opportune moment for a new English bowling talent to emerge, this is it.



Liam Boham, son of Ian Boham, the former England all-rounder, celebrates one of his five wickets on his first-class debut for Hampshire at Portsmouth yesterday. Report, page 1

Dalton's efforts unrewarded

By SIMON WILDE

LORD'S (Cheshire won last): Cheshire beat Bedfordshire by six wickets

ON THIS evidence, the life of England's indoor captain is not dissimilar to that of their outdoor one. Richard Dalton, who will lead the England indoor team on a tour of New Zealand next March, is commanding the full side there, did his sterling best to bring Bedfordshire victory in the MCC Trophy yesterday, but it was a heroic individual performance in a losing cause.

Dalton, 31, struck a sparkling 103 off 117 balls on his first appearance

at Lord's to set Bedfordshire galloping towards a final total of 253 for seven in their 55 overs, a sizeable enough score to have won 11 of the previous 13 minor county limited-overs finals, but not this one.

Cheshire had little trouble meeting their target and won without something to spare, despite Dalton's tidy spell of medium-pace bowling. It might have been a different story had not Dalton been dismissed in freakish circumstances, run out by a direct hit from the boundary by Bryson, who later laid the foundations of Cheshire's reply by batting through the first 39 overs for 74.

Bryson also took a rare wicket, when he dismissed Stanley, having been brought on to complete an over

begun by Bostock, who damaged a hand taking a return catch from Larkins.

Larkins had been expected to be Bedfordshire's most dangerous player but he scored only 15 out of an opening stand of 70. Dalton, who plays alongside Alan Wells in the indoor team, hit four sixes and believes he has greatly benefited from Larkins's encouragement this season. "He needs to learn to play a few more shots," Dalton said, tongue in cheek.

Bryson was well supported in stands of 70 and 112 by Ben, who hit hard for his 43, and Saxelby, the former Nottinghamshire and Durham player, who scored 45. They quickly showed that Bedfordshire, Dalton apart, had scored too slowly.

Lewis takes lead role after Surrey reject TCCB plea

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

SHORTLY before play starts at the Oval this morning — assuming that he can reach the ground in time — Chris Lewis will toss up as captain of Surrey. Quite what he has done to merit this promotion is not obvious, although it does give a fair reflection of his tosy-turvy season. He began it promising to make amends for his past failings and ends it as a figure of fun.

Surrey decided yesterday not to abide by a request from the Test and County Cricket Board to overlook Lewis for the county championship match against Warwickshire, after his demotion from the England team on grounds of discipline. "We feel that the punishment is harsh but fair," Mike Soper, the club chairman, said, "and it should not be taken forward to prevent him playing for us."

Instead, Lewis will captain Surrey for the second time in the absence of Alec Stewart and Adam Hoggie, who, along with Graham Thorpe, are representing England. He led them against South Africa A three weeks ago, when he was instructed to prove his form and fitness before the Headingley Test, and seemingly made little effort to do any such thing.

With four matches left, the championship has not passed Surrey by, though they will do well to win it. They lie fifth, 13 points behind the leaders, Essex, who have won their past six championship matches. Essex, whose rise has been startling, are also involved in an important game, against

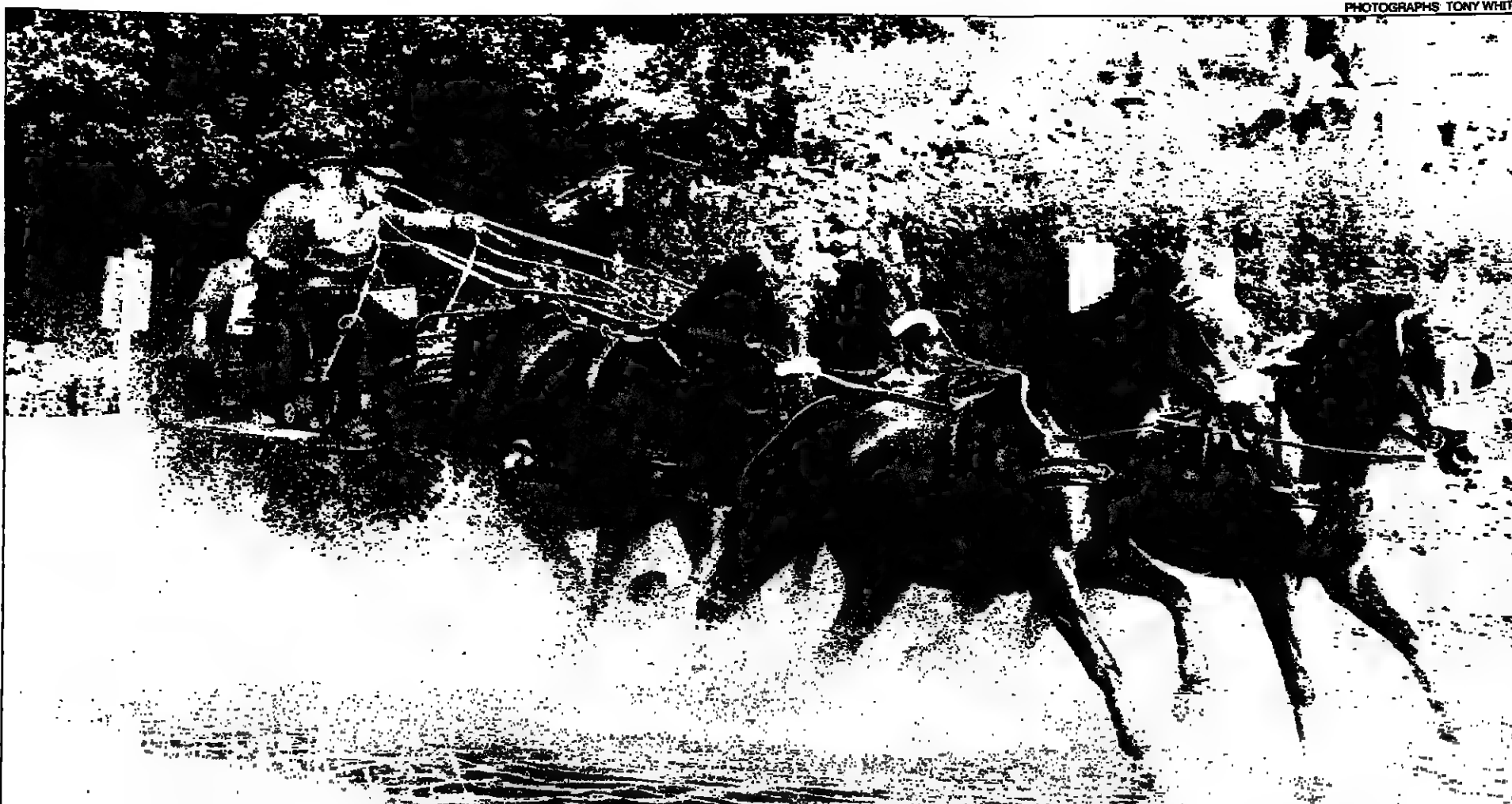
Nottinghamshire, at Trent Bridge, on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Surrey will be

looking for a return to the top of the table.

Remaining fixtures:

Essex (18) v Yorkshire (Headingley), Sept 2; v Warwickshire (Trent Bridge), Sept 3; v Gloucestershire (Cheltenham), Sept 4; v Somerset (Taunton), Sept 5; v Derbyshire (Derby), Sept 6; v Durham (Leazes), Sept 7; v Lancashire (Lancaster), Sept 8; v Kent (Canterbury), Sept 9; v Sussex (Hove), Sept 10; v Hampshire (Southampton), Sept 11; v Northamptonshire (Wellingborough), Sept 12; v Warwickshire (Warwick), Sept 13; v Gloucestershire (Gloucester), Sept 14; v Somerset (Taunton), Sept 15; v Derbyshire (Derby), Sept 16; v Durham (Leazes), Sept 17; v Lancashire (Lancaster), Sept 18; v Kent (Canterbury), Sept 19; v Sussex (Hove), Sept 20; v Hampshire (Southampton), Sept 21; v Northamptonshire (Wellingborough), Sept 22; v Warwickshire (Warwick), Sept 23; v Gloucestershire (Gloucester), Sept 24; v Somerset (Taunton), Sept 25; v Derbyshire (Derby), Sept 26; v Durham (Leazes), Sept 27; v Lancashire (Lancaster), Sept 28; v Kent (Canterbury), Sept 29; v Sussex (Hove), Sept 30; v Hampshire (Southampton), Sept 31; 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Bassett, the British champion, can testify to the dangers and exhilaration of her sport, but is more concerned with the cost of competing alongside the best

Sisters can gain whip hand for Britain

It's a strange thing to do, really — to have four horses in front of a carriage and a driver round like a maniac. Karen Bassett said, and she should know. A member of the Great Britain four-in-hand carriage driving team for three years, she is being joined at the world championships, which start today in Waregem, Belgium, by her sister, Philippa Thomas. It is the first time that two women have represented their country together.

They are, respectively, British champion and runner-up, having defeated the third member of the national side, George Bowman, Bassett, at 32 the younger by a year, is a professional; Thomas, a scoldier, just does it most of the time — morning, lunchtime and evening. There is a friendly but keen rivalry between them. "I hope to be top 12 or 15," Bassett said. "Change that around," her sister retorted. "I'll beat you!"

The competition includes dressage, a 36-kilometre marathon stage driven at various speeds, and a timed obstacle event to check soundness after

the marathon. The marathon includes hazards. They are "to catch you out," Thomas said. "You have to know exactly the route you want to go, so you walk the course beforehand. And it's done at a fairly fast pace." This is where the dangers occur.

Earlier this year, I tipped the whole thing over," Bassett said. "Fortunately, I was the only one hurt. We flung the carriage back up while I crawled back on and carried on, but I was very badly bruised and developed back trouble, and finally had to have it put right by an osteopath. But nothing accident-wise has ever made me think 'I'm not going on'... only the finance."

There have been fatalities, mostly among referees, but then there are few sports in which a referee is next to the competitor at every stage. The driver of a four-in-hand carriage has the referee at his or her elbow throughout, as if they were taking a driving test. Also aboard is a timekeeper/navigator, standing behind the driver, with more human ballast at the back — in

Nick Szczepanik on the unique double act that hopes to reign in Belgium at the world carriage driving championships

Thomas's case her husband, Dave. "He's heavy enough to hold the carriage down, and use his weight to balance the carriage on corners, like a sidecar racer or yacht crew man hanging out," she said. They have to know where they are going, too. "They can

lose the competition as much as the driver," Bassett said. "You need strong guys at the back of the carriage."

Strong will when dealing with the bank manager, too, for this is not a cheap sport. The British Horse Society will pick up the bills for the world

championships once the competitors reach Dover, but apart from the expense of keeping the teams of horses, whose passports cost £118 each, a marathon carriage can cost in the region of £12,000.

Thomas's diesel bill, to move two carriages, five horses (including one reserve) and crew reached £4,800 in one year of 14 competitions. When she decided to move from ponies to horses, her sponsors were frightened off by the extra expense. "I had to tell everything I owned," she said. "I might have had a house, even taken a holiday..."

Expensive, dangerous — why do it? "The thrill of going round the marathon, really," Thomas said. "Staying upright and intact." A pause. "And competing against men." Male rivals have said that the horse team class, as opposed to the one for ponies, is not for women: far too dangerous. Women, they say, are not strong enough.

"I've been told that to my face," Bassett said. "It is a dangerous sport, and you do have to be physically fit and strong at times. But you also

have to be very dedicated and put the hours in to get results, which is why very few women succeed, or wish to succeed."

"It does take strength," Thomas said, "but if your horses are schooled, they should understand and be obedient." Schooling, in her case, even involved a crash course in English. Her team of Hungarian Lipizzaners only understood commands in Magyar when she acquired them.

The secret of success, she said, is to "know your own horses and how they are going to react: what sort of things could spook them, like a big banner shaking or with light reflecting on it. You usually drive the same four horses in the same positions, and you can tell what mood they're in."

In Belgium, Bassett and Thomas expect the blend of their different strengths, and those of Bowman, to challenge the other favourites, from Holland, Germany and the host nation. Their aim is nothing less than the team gold, with this caveat: "Horses are horses — there are four different minds in front of you."



Thomas, left, and Bassett have a keen but friendly rivalry

SQUASH

Ryan capitalises on fitness advantage

DEREK RYAN, the Irish champion, took full advantage of Simon Parke's lack of recent match practice to beat the Englishman 15-11, 15-11, 2-15, 15-11 in the first round of the Hong Kong open championship yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes).

Parke is now fully recovered from the testicular cancer and subsequent chemotherapy for which he went into hospital in January.

The No 5 seed has regained fitness remarkably quickly but appeared rusty compared with the 6ft 3in Dubliner, who played in the Singapore Open last week.

There were other upsets and near-upsets, partly as a result of the new eight-man seeding system introduced on the

world tour this year. Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the second seed, was on the brink of defeat before beating Zarak Jahani, of Pakistan, 15-6, 8-15, 15-10, 7-15, 15-12. Under the previous 16-seed system, Eyles could not have met the world No 10 for another round.

Paul Johnson, of Kent, dismissed the higher-ranked Tony Hands and meets Ryan today while Jonathan Power, of Canada, fought back from two games down to beat Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, earning the right to play Peter Nicol, of Scotland, the No 4 seed. Only Nicol and Chris Walker, the England captain and No 7 seed, lived up to their rankings with anything approaching confidence yesterday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

VIVA VOCE

(a) Oral as distinct from in writing, a live examination, for example at Oxford after the ordinary written papers, to test the degree of a marginal candidate. Bill Voce was Harold Larwood's partner in the bodyline days. The expression vivus is employed in classical Latin, but the use of the ablative phrase appears to be of later date. "The viva voce part of each examination is carried on in Latin."

ALPHA MINUS

(e) At Oxford and other examining places, it is customary not to give percentage or other marks, but to mark by Alpha Minus, Beta Double Plus and such gradations of the Greek alphabet. "Your general paper deserves alphas plus for chutzpah, Sebastian, but gamma minus query minus for facts and knowledge."

REMOVE

(b) At some schools, as Eton and Charterhouse, a certain division of the school. From the verb remove in the sense of promoting a pupil from a class to a higher one. Disraeli, *Coningsby*, 1844: "Some unhappy wight in the remove, wandering about, seeking relief in the shape of a verse."

MONITOR

(b) Prefects, monitors, etc are a school's NCOs, controlling house and school matters on behalf of the heads. Both names come from the Latin. A prefect is someone put in charge. A monitor warns and advises boys and masters about what is really going on in the shrubbery. "I should like to appoint you a monitor, Sebastian. But I am concerned about your anarchic and underdog sympathies."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rd8-e1 Bxd8 (1... Rd8 2 Nc7 is mate) 2 Qd8-Kd7 3 Nc5+ and wins.

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RADIO CHOICE

Radio goes to the pictures

The Deep Season: Seabed Odyssey, Radio 4, 7.30pm.

As this is radio, not television, descriptive powers of a high order are called for — and are generously provided — in Julian Hector's subaquatic adventure story. Down into the waters off the Cayman Islands he goes, aqualung on his back. First, he explores the shallower depths of a lagoon where a Great Ray nips his finger, some fire coral stings him, and an 8ft shark disinterestedly gives him the once over. And all the while, he is having a two-way high-tech chat with his marine biologist companion as well as, reporting to us, the listeners, on the wonders of the deep. His subsequent 1,000ft dive in a minisub gives him a close up look at a sunken ship. Technically and, yes, pictorially, this is superior radio.

Bausch of Wuppertal, Radio 3, 10.15pm.

The German town of Wuppertal has given the world aspirin, Engels, and Pina Bausch. It was in 1973 that Bausch founded Tanztheater Wuppertal. It is a dance company unlike any other. Ask anybody who has seen them do their stuff at the Edinburgh Festival. They dance and speak. In *The Rite of Spring* they performed ankle-deep in earth. In *Nenzen*, they were in two feet of water, and 2,000 carnations filled the stage. Bausch will not explain her dance pieces; she expects her audiences to trust their own feelings about them. How does she select the dancers who will keep faith with her and her strange ways? She just looks into their eyes.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from Bowdoin-on-Windermere 12.30pm Lisa Farnson 3.00pm Clive Wren 5.20pm Evening Session 8.00pm Collins and Macdonald's 1st Parade 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00pm Clare Sturgess 4.00pm Charlie Jordan, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Helen Sherwin 7.00 The "What If" Show 7.20pm Hip to Square 9.00pm Paul Jones 10.00pm Daryl O'Donnell's Musical Cean (3/6) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl 6.45 Wake Up to Money 8.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.35 The Magazine, with Diana Maclellan, incl 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05pm Focus on Five, incl 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00pm Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra, incl at 7.30pm Sports Bulletin 7.35pm David Goodwin's Crockle Weekly David and his guests are in Manchester to discuss the One-Day International between England and Pakistan 8.00pm Sportsman's Choice, with Alton Byrd 9.35pm America Graffiti 10.05pm News Talk 10.35pm Radio 5 Live at the Fringe 11.00pm Night Extra 12.05am After Hours — Early Call 2.05pm Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 5.00pm Peter Daeley 7.00pm Sport 10.00pm James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.05 The World Today 7.30 Sports International 8.10 Words of Faith 9.15 On the Spot 8.30 Network UK 9.15 Composer of the Month 9.45 Health Matters 10.05 Business 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Spot 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Ten Billion or Bust 2.05pm Outlook 3.30 Multiracial X Press 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Ten Billion or Bust 8.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Soundbite 12.30 Rock Salad 1.30pm Good Books 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30pm Thymine Drama: The End of Learantani Bonaldi 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00pm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00pm Susanah Simons 2.00pm Concerto: C. P. E. Bach (Piano Concerto in D minor) 3.00pm Duettime 6.00pm Classic Newswatch 6.30pm Sonata: Schumann (Piano Sonata No 2 in E minor) 7.00pm Travel Guide: Music in the Caribbean (1) 8.00pm Evening Concert: Barber (The School for Scandal), Arthur Schnitzler (Hermione concert); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1 in C); Berlioz (Harold in Italy) 10.00pm Michael Mapson 1.00pm Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Rachel Lee Ross

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Poulenc (Les biches); Donizetti (Oboe Sonata in F); Mozart (Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K546); Crussell (Introductions and Variations on a Swedish Air); Handel (Carnival); Crudele (Immortal) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Includes Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor, D940); Sibelius (Valse triste); Martinu (Jazz Suite) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Introduced by Mary Miller. Includes Gluck (Iphigenie en Tauride, Act 4); James MacMillan (United); Schubert (Abendständchen, an Untertan); Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F) 11.15pm Rihm (Sine Nomine); Haydn (Singing Quartet in G, Op 77 No 1) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms 1.00pm Wandering Minstrel. Geoffrey Smith continues his examination of the successful collaboration between the librettist Gilbert and the composer Sullivan. This week, he looks at how they poked fun at just about everybody through their operas (2/3) 2.00 Sheffield Chamber Music Festival. Helmut Wind Ensemble Beethoven (Oboe in E flat, Op 103); Krommer (Oboe Partita in B flat, Op 68); Beethoven, arr. Sedlak (Symphony No 7) 3.20 Preoccupations: Lights. Camera. Action! The pianist Barry Douglas reveals a subject close to his heart

3.25 Twentieth-Century Stylings. Steven Stirling, horn; Vernon Kirk, tenor; Opus 20, under Scott Strorman, Britain 4.00pm The Sound of Music (Starring); K. Malone (Shanghai for orchestra); Lutoslawski (Pavane); Tchaikovsky (The Swan) 5.00 The Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson 5.15 In Tune. Presented by Sean Rafferty. Includes Grieg (Molly on the Shore); Saint-Saëns (Oboe Sonata); Dantz (Fantasia on La ci darem la mano); Balakirev (Piano Concerto No 1); Lalo (Missa's Requiem); Auld, La loi d'y's) 7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Live from the Albert Hall, London. Solving Krangelhorn, soprano; Marjara Lipovsek, mezzo; BBC Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Chorus, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, under Claudio Abbado 8.00 Mahler (Symphony No 2, Resurrection) 9.10 I Was There. Richard Fawkes talks to the conductor Vilen Tausky (2/3) (1) 10.00 Music Restored. Tomaso Albinoni (Two Sonatas in B minor, Op 4 No 6, Cantata, Amor, Sorte, Desiderio: Concerto in F, Op 7 No 9) 10.45 Bausch of Wuppertal. See Choice 11.30 Composer of the Week: Berg (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night, with David Cornet. Includes 1.00 Choral Evensong 2.00 Mahler 3.25 Chamber Music 5.00 Sequences

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Beyond a Boundary (4/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze 10.00 News: Boomerang (FM). Keith Barron and Brigit Forsyth star in a family drama by Chris Thompson (1/4) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour (FM) 10.30 Cricketers: England v Pakistan (LW). The first one-day international at Old Trafford 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent (FM) 12.00 News: You and Yours (FM), with Dylan Winter 12.25pm Slightly Focused (FM) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.20 Cricket (LW) 1.40 The Archers (FM) (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Deep Season: That Silent Sea (FM), by Jonathan Myerson. The story of two rowing boats which set off to cross the Atlantic in 1986. With Tony Curran, Nick Dunning and Douglas Hodge 2.00 Cricket (LW) 2.30 News: Afternoon Shift (FM) 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope at Edinburgh (FM). Lynne Walker sees the Botha Strauss play Time and the Room and reads Alice Thomass' Elie's new novel, Fairy Tale 4.45 Short Story: Forensic Evidence (FM), by Marilyn Hadfield

5.00 PM (FM) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 5.55 Cricket (LW) 6.00 Six O'Clock News (FM) 6.30 Doon Your Way. The comedy address: Doon Macchann plays DJ Chantal, the star of Fush FM — the local radio station which broadcasts from a portalo in Peckham High Street. With Pam Ferns, Lesley Sharp, Phil Cornwell, Anne Rabbit and Alistair McGowan 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Deep Season: Seabed Odyssey. See Choice 8.00 2020: A View of the Century. John Tusa examines man's desire for exploration (4/5) (1) 8.45 Twilight. Joanna Pinnoch teams up with a man who has badgers in his orchard 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The programme for people with disabilities. Presented by Frederick Dove 9.30 Kaleidoscope at Edinburgh (1) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enigma. Samuel West reads Robert Harris's thriller (4/12) 11.00 Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter. Mario Vargas Llosa's comic novel dramatised by Lee Hall. With Tom Hollander, Siobhan Redmond, John Sessions and Alex Lowe (1/5) 11.30 Offspring, with John Peel (1) 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut (9/10) (1) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 87.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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SPORT

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CRICKET 45

Dalton century to no avail in MCC Trophy final



RFU unlikely to be cowed by expulsion threat

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

REPRESENTATIVES from Scotland, Ireland and Wales yesterday stood back from the expulsion of England from the rugby union's five nations' championship. True, they have temporised for only a week, but it is the first suggestion in a long and increasingly fractious summer that the Celtic nations appreciate their own situation is far from strong.

The three countries met at Heathrow on Tuesday night — significantly, no representative from France was present — and a statement from their television committee said that they had agreed dates for a home-and-away four nations' championship next year.

"This decision will be reported to a meeting of the full committee of these unions next week," the statement said. "Between now and then, discussions will take place in one final attempt to persuade the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to save the five nations' championship in its current form."

Whether the RFU will choose to do so seems debatable. It has long been clear to all parties that the loss of a sporting event such as the five nations' tournament is good for no one, denies players the opportunity to contest something that is part of the fabric of the game in the northern hemisphere, and denies spectators easy access to a series of fascinating and unpredictable, if not always of the highest class.

However, in the long term, the biggest losers would be the Celtic nations themselves. Many consider the moral high

ground to be theirs in this argument, but rugby having declared itself an open game, every commercial argument favours England and its population of 48 million, wooed by television and sponsors in a way that Celtic competition — even with French involvement — would not be.

"We have given England a last opportunity, it's up to them," Syd Millar, the Ireland delegate, said. "Otherwise the situation will take its inevitable course and that will be a four nations' championship." England, as has been their stance of late, chose to make no official response other than to acknowledge the statement.

As matters stand, the only country with an agreement firmly on the table is England: their five-year broadcasting

Quins sign league pair... 44

contract with BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting company 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is worth £87.5 million and has the support of leading English clubs, even if none of them are likely to sign an agreement which they believe is too long and offers them too little money.

"We had a verbal response from the RFU to our previous discussion," Freddie McLeod, the president of the Scottish Rugby Union, said. "It really has not taken us too far forward. But the door is still open to England to come back within seven days. Beyond that the talking stops."

"They have obviously got to see what they can do with Sky and there has been talk of unscrambling [the agreement], but it would appear there is no unscrambling at this time. At the moment I'm very pessimistic."

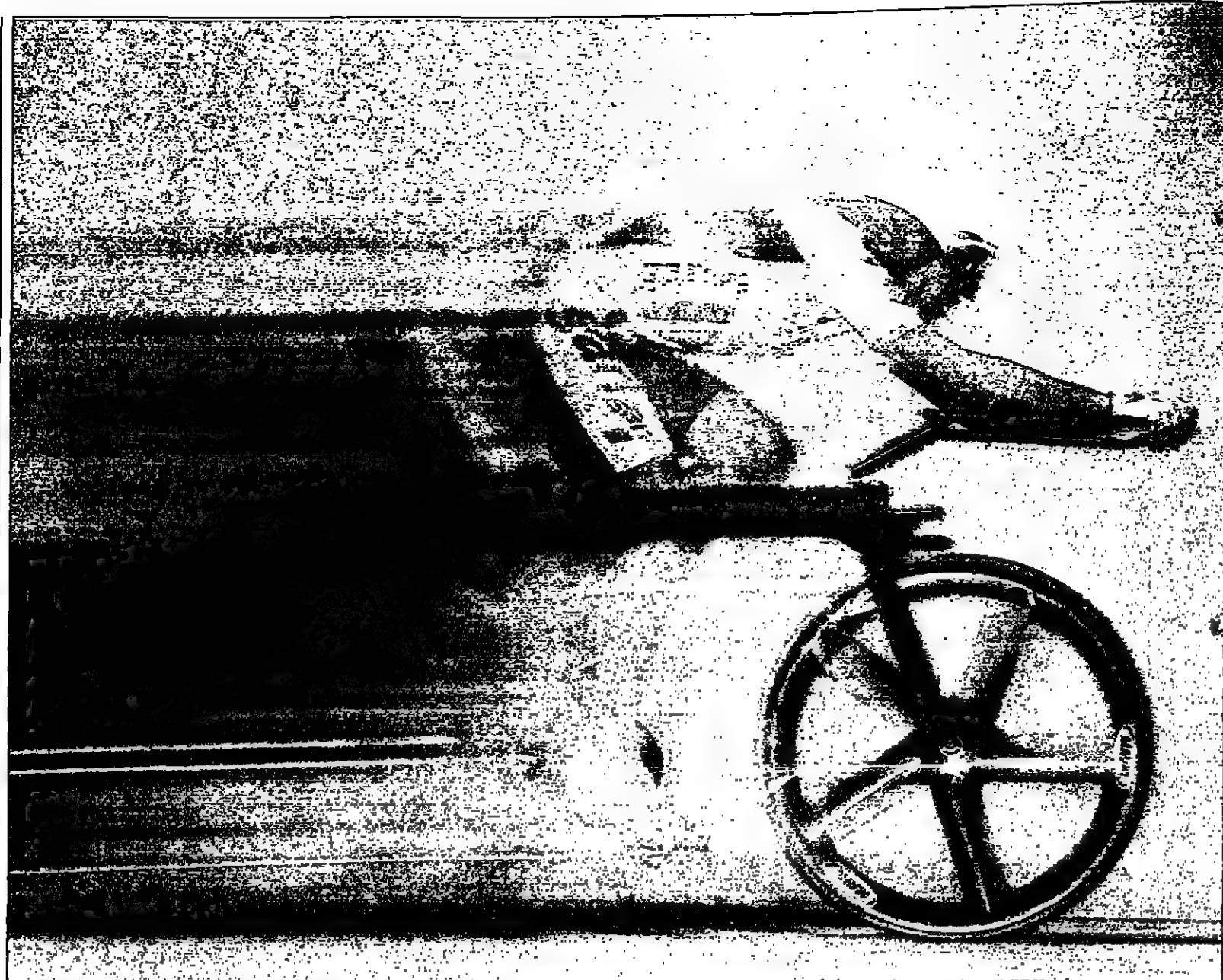
The situation has been exacerbated by the unseemly power struggle within the RFU's ranks. The faction that could announce a restoration of the five nations' would undoubtedly win popular acclaim, but there is a growing belief in England's capacity to emerge from the crisis far stronger, as a playing nation, than their Celtic rivals.

The loss of representative fixtures, from seniors down to schoolboys, and the restriction, if one were placed, on referees crossing borders, would be damaging, but equally so to the Celts. If Scotland, Ireland and Wales have a television agreement parallel to the offer already made to them by Sky — worth £40.5 million to Wales and £28 million each to Scotland and Ireland — they are being remarkably quiet about it. No terrestrial company is likely to match the money available from BSkyB.

Even while the dispute developed there were discussions over a one-off senior game between Scotland and England specifically for the Calcutta Cup. At the same time, England have in place a refurbished international programme that will include France, Australia and, shortly, New Zealand and South Africa.

"I do think the matter could have been handled far more diplomatically, but England has the major market," Nigel Wray, the property millionaire whose investment in Saracens has created such interest in the North London club, said.

"Though we all love watching international rugby, personally I don't think there is much interest in watching Ireland play Wales or Scotland — there is no rationale for watching those games in England and, as it happens, the rest of the world likes bashing England anyway."



Boardman races away from Lehman on his way to breaking the 4,000 metres pursuit world record yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Boardman obliterates world record

By PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN was as good as his word. He had forecast a world record for the 4,000 metres pursuit and produced an inspired ride on the opening day of the world track cycling championship series in Manchester yesterday, his time of 4min 13.353sec in the qualifying round taking a remarkable 6.346 seconds off the record set by Andrea Collinelli at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last month.

Boardman again looked unbeatable in the quarter-finals, setting the fastest time of 4:14.784 in that round to eliminate Edouard Gritsoun, of Russia, and cruise through to the semi-finals today.

His classic qualifying ride was almost a rerun of his victory at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. His rival yesterday was Jens Lehman, of Germany, whom he caught

on that occasion before the full distance was covered.

The same thing happened yesterday, except that Boardman delivered his coup even sooner. He caught the German with 1,000 metres — four laps — remaining. Lehman's aspirations stopped there. "I knew the pace would be fast but not that fast," the Briton said, "but I felt that I would catch him."

Boardman, the latest world-class rider to adopt the Graeme Obree "Superman" position, took another leaf from the Scot's book. To obtain maximum advantage from the streamlining it gives, Boardman fitted a gear of 112 inches, by far the highest he has used on the track.

Such was the effort to get the machine away from the starting gate that Boardman tended to wobble at the "off" and lost at least one second in steadying his machine. Once

that slight hiccup was resolved, it became a no-contest with Boardman producing a world record that helped to restore Britain's reputation as a pursuing nation.

Obree, the champion, who is absent on medical advice, watched Boardman's ride on television. "It was a good

Manchester results... 42

decision of mine not to defend the title and a wonderful ride by Chris," he said.

Collinelli's opportunity to regain his record came 20 minutes later but, although he eliminated Juan Martinez, of Spain, and improved his personal best, he still finished four seconds slower than Boardman, who feels he is now profiting from riding in the Tour de France.

He believes he could have

improved on his new world record in his quarter-final. "I could have done it," he said. "It was warmer and the conditions were more conducive. But if I keep on breaking records I'll lose sight of what I'm here for and that's winning the championship."

"We decided to go for the time in the early round and just get it out of the way. Then, after that, we could concentrate on winning the title. I'm very motivated by the fact that the championships are taking place in what is virtually my home town."

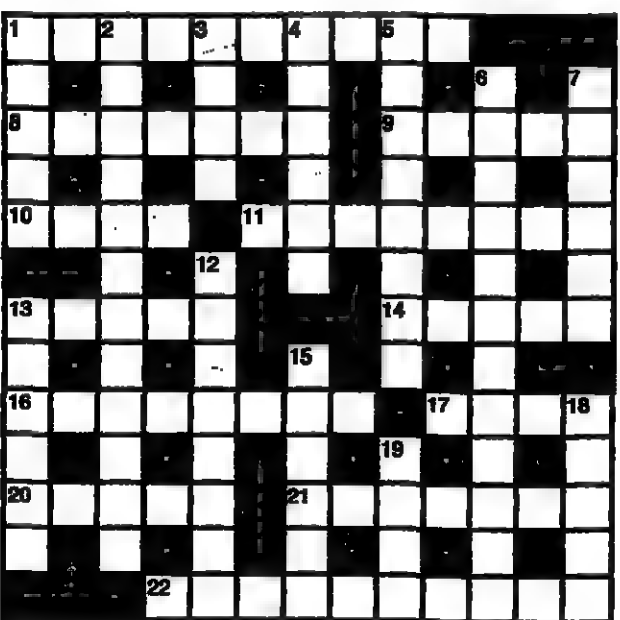
Shane Kelly, of Australia, won the first gold medal of the championships when he broke the course record in the 1,000-metres time trial with a time of 1min 27.777sec. His success was some compensation for disappointment at the Atlanta Games when he pulled his foot out of the pedal-lock and did not finish.



Boardman celebrates after claiming the world record

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 873 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Plaything; A —, Ibsen (5,5)
- 8 The —, Pope satire (7)
- 9 Printer's daggers (5)
- 10 Whirling current (4)
- 11 Disparage, ridicule (4-4)
- 13 Flat 2D space (5)
- 14 Radioactive inert gas (5)
- 16 An anticlimax (3-5)
- 17 Cry in misery (4)
- 20 Delivery route (5)
- 21 Legally detain (goods) (7)
- 22 First people (4,3,3); an orchid (4-3-3)

DOWN

- 1 Evade (5)
- 2 Tediously extended (4-5-3)
- 3 Spoon off surface material (4)
- 4 Former pupil (3,3)
- 5 Squeeze (into tiny space); dressing aid (8)
- 6 Apparently automatic reaction (6,6)
- 7 Fungus/alga symbiosis (6)
- 12 Gradually became widespread, rifle (10) (8)
- 13 Poverty (6)
- 15 Enfeebled (6)
- 18 Narrow surface (5)
- 19 On top of (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 872

ACROSS: 7 Crab, 8 Abattoir, 9 Au gratin, 10 Path, 11 Lizard, 13 Oracle, 15 Ursula, 17 Throng, 19 Sari, 21 Befuddle, 23 Divorée, 24 Cosh.
DOWN: 1 Croupier, 2 Iberia, 3 Taut, 4 Raincoat, 5 Utopia, 6 Sift, 12 Drawback, 14 Long lost, 16 Unison, 18 Reduce, 20 Aria, 22 Fuel.

Correction: The solution to 17 down in No 867 should have been printed yesterday as Venice.

Graham may reject Maine Road post

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER City held a board meeting last night to discuss their managerial vacancy amid speculation that George Graham will turn the job down.

When the vacancy became known on Tuesday, the former Arsenal manager said that he had to be interested in a job "at a big club", although it was yesterday afternoon before City officials finally heard from him. However Graham, who has built his reputation on careful planning, made a series of telephone calls yesterday, and the information he

still expect him to do so, which puts enormous pressure on the manager. Graham is undoubtedly aware of this, and may prefer to make his comeback after his year's suspension in less onerous circumstances.

If Graham does reject the post, Lee will be left with the difficult task of mollifying supporters becoming increasingly critical of his chairmanship. The appointment of a high profile, and successful, manager like Graham would have gone some way to quieten the doubters, who never agreed with his appointment of Ball, a personal friend, and are concerned at the direction the club is taking, after the sale of several leading players over the past 12 months to cut the size of the wage bill.

Last night the *Manchester Evening News*, whose role in Ball's fall was significant, questioned Lee's own part in the signing of foreign players and the selling of Quinn, Coton, Curle and other experienced members of the first-team squad. A chairman with a reputation for being too "hands-on" would not appeal to Graham, or indeed to Bruce Rioch or Kenny Dalglish, whose names have also been mentioned, albeit tenuously, in connection with the job.

The City directors faced a long debate when they convened after last night's reserve game against Wrexham. Rather too late, several of the players expressed their support for Ball. Kinkladze, whose own future may now be in the balance, and Immel leading the way. "I do not like the decision," Immel said.

Injury toll grows, page 41



Lee: under pressure

gathered during those may have persuaded him that he would do better to wait for another job with less obvious drawbacks.

Although Maine Road has been rebuilt since Francis Lee took over as club chairman, there are accumulated debts which mean that whoever takes charge, following the resignation of Alan Ball, will be unable to compete in the transfer market with the leading FA Carling Premiership clubs. Yet the supporters will

Redgrave hints at Olympic return

By JOHN GOODBODY

STEVE REDGRAVE, the unbeatable icon of British rowing, has not ruled out trying to win a record fifth successive Olympic gold medal in 2000.

The Briton, who will be 38 by the time of the Sydney Games, said yesterday that he had been urged by members of the public to continue competing at international level.

Redgrave had announced that if he won the coxless pair with Matthew Pinsent in Atlanta, he would definitely retire from rowing. Their victory gave Redgrave a fourth successive title, which only Carl Lewis, the long jumper, Al Oerter, the discus thrower, Paul Elvstrom, the yachtsman, and Aladar Gerevich, the fencer, have matched in the modern Games.

Redgrave said: "I have not come to face it yet, that I have actually given up. I have told everybody I am giving up, but I still think it is going to be very, very difficult and I do not know if I can actually walk away from it yet."

"Twenty years of rowing, 16 at international level... it has been my life and I still love it. I really do love the sport."

Redgrave told *BBC Radio Five Live*: "I am only 34. Some people say that is old for a sportsman, but one of the Hansen brothers [rowers] took a silver medal at 41 and retired the following year at 42 years old. He was favourite to win those Olympics in 1988 at the age of 41 and got the silver."

"So 38 at Sydney would not be too old. I still feel I am capable of doing that. It is getting the enthusiasm of doing the next four years training..."

Asked whether he would compete in Sydney, he said: "Sydney is a dream in some respects. The Australians treat their sports very differently and I think it will be a fantastic Olympics and to be involved in that as a competitor has got to be fantastic. For me to carry on has got to be not just doing it, it has got to be of winning it in four years' time."

Yet Redgrave added that he did not get much joy out of winning gold in Atlanta, when the coxless pair were Britain's only cham-



Redgrave: undecided

pions in any sport.

"I think that the pressures that we put ourselves under, the expectations of everybody else took its toll. It made it a very, very big struggle in the last month and certainly in the last week."

Redgrave is unique among British competitors in having taken gold medals in four successive Olympics. The Hungarian, Gerevich, won six successive team sabre titles. His last, in 1960, came at the age of 50.

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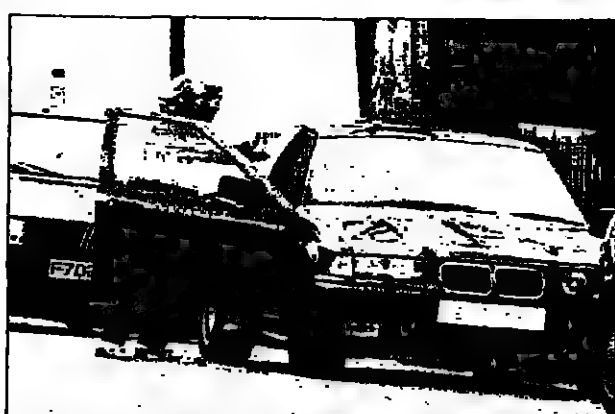
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She's snapped: much of Patsy Kensit's life — as when she kicked Liam Gallagher, the lead singer of Oasis, out of the house and out of his black BMW when the tabloids caught him canoodling elsewhere — makes the newspapers

What makes Patsy roll with it?

People look at all those garish headlines that Patsy Kensit provokes with her brash behaviour and her serial rock marriages and her dalliances with footballers, and they immediately assume that this is a girl you'd be too embarrassed to take home to meet your mother, whereas in actual fact this is a girl you would be too embarrassed to take to even your chiropodist.

According to the tabloids, Patsy Kensit is the hen-pecking harriidan who forced Liam Gallagher to bow out of Oasis's American tour by ordering her fiancé to come home and find them a place to live ("She's Got Him By The Wonderballs", as one front page put it). Strangely, everything she does seems to be done in the full glare of the national press.

Last month Kensit backed a national campaign to encourage people to keep out of the sun to avoid damaging their skin and health, apparently unaware that an even smarter move for a woman like her would be to stay out of the limelight.

Having heard her confess to one interviewer that, "No, I don't think I'm a good actress, and I don't think I ever will be," you might assume that Kensit is a modest woman. Having seen her work — which stretches from a Bird's Eye pea commercial at the age of four, through the disastrous *Absolute Beginners* and her underdog appearance in Mel Gibson's *Lethal Weapon 2*, all the way to her role as an oversexed, incestuous Edwardian with bleached public hair in the recent *Angels and Insects* — you might also conclude that Kensit has much to be modest about.

So how come she always manoeuvres herself into the newspapers? Because she has worked out that you can get even more out of your allotted 15 minutes of fame by piggy-backing on someone else's 15 minutes. Do that a few times and the hours just fly by.

Kensit has turned herself into one of those hermit crabs which scur the shore looking for new shells that they can take shelter in. "I don't care about money or anything like that," she once gushed. "All I want to be is more famous than anyone or anything. I say my prayers every night. I say: 'Please, God, make me a star.' For Moses, God managed miracles. Patsy he was generous enough to send into orbit around real stars."

To you and me love may be blind, or a many splendoured thing, or like a red, red rose, but to Patsy it is a sure way of fleshing out her press cuttings, especially if the love is aimed at a rock star.

It is impossible to snap Liam Gallagher these days without Kensit's face in the frame, either kissing him or flashing her engagement ring. Even her fallouts — as when she kicked Gallagher out of the house and out of his BMW when the tabloids caught him canoodling elsewhere — make

She is the older woman that Oasis bad boy Liam Gallagher chooses to come home to. Joe Joseph on the rise and rise of Patsy Kensit



Bound up: Patsy Kensit made no secret of her passion for Liam Gallagher, which quite by chance coincided with Oasis's rise to stardom

the papers. She was still at school when she appeared in a pop video for Haircut 100, and not yet out of gymnastics when she picked up Gary Kemp of Spandau Ballet at a Capital Radio party ("I kind of pulled Gary, which was kind of bizarre because I was just coming up to my fifteenth birthday", though "it was really innocent").

She was still a teenager when she married Dan Donovan, son of the fashion photographer Terence Donovan and keyboard player for the then hot band Big Audio Dynamite, although she told the press at the time — no, Kensit has never grasped the concept of keeping one's own counsel — "I know it's corny but I love him so much. I think we will

be Mr and Mrs Donovan for ever."

Well, at least a couple of years. Then it was marriage to Jim Kerr, singer with Simple Minds, with whom she has a young son, James, now three. "I have found someone who is right for me in Jim," she cooed. At the time Simple Minds had

burns and were as big a fish as a blonde bait like Kensit could have hoped to catch.

Since Kerr, she has struck up friendships with Ryan Giggs of Manchester United, and Spurs goalkeeper Ian Walker, has flirted wildly with Formula One racing driver David Coulthard and for some reason chose to plunge her hand down the front of Mich-

ael Hutchence's trousers at the MTV Awards in Paris, even though the INXS singer had his own hands full with Paula Yates at the time.

Then she made no secret of her passion for Liam Gallagher, which quite by chance happened to coincide with Oasis's evolution into the biggest British band since the Beatles. Kensit is not one for sitting at home and pining. Having apparently pinned a pic of Gallagher to her wall at home, she then even embarrassed the unembarrassable Chris Evans when she appeared on his chat show *TFI Friday* to promote *Angels and Insects* and kissed a photo of Liam that was pinned to the wall. A "take me I'm yours" code: but without the code.

However, now that rumours are swirling that Oasis might implode, Kensit is beginning to look like the closest thing the rock world has to the curse of

mine? Bought a Simple Minds CD recently? Spooky, isn't it?

"I've always wanted kids, ever since I was 14," Kensit said last year. "I like what they bring out in me... Love and craziness." In choosing to hook up with the 23-year-old Oasis singer, who is five years her junior, Kensit seems to have fired of waiting for her own lad to grow up. Like one of those TV chefs working to a tight deadline, she has found a son someone made earlier.

Her friends say Kensit has gone off the rails, possibly thrown off course by the death three years ago of her mother, to whom she was devoted. Others wonder if she was thrown off the rails at an even earlier age as a result of idolising a father, Jimmy the Dip, who was a frequently convicted pickpocket and nightclub owner who spent slices of his life in prison, knew the big gangsters of the Sixties, and who even chose Reggie Kray to be godfather to Patsy's brother, Jamie.

"He was the first man I ever fell in love with," Kensit said. Now we know that Jimmy was just the first of many. Kensit is in danger of turning into a modern Britt Ekland or, worse, Zsa Zsa Gabor. Even more staggering, she almost makes Paula Yates look restrained.

A.S. Byatt, from whose novella *Angels and Insects* was adapted, said after seeing Kensit in the film: "She's a very intelligent girl who has succeeded in displaying stupidity in a rather clever way." In a movie, that can be taken as a compliment. In real life, it just leaves you looking like a hopeless patsy.

The Princess's ring of confidence

AS ROYAL gestures go, it was right up there with the big, blue, mascaraed eyes peeking over the top of the surgical mask — and it may yet backfire as mightily. Whichever way you look at it, Diana, Princess of Wales (as we must call her from this day forth) has truly wagged a finger at

The newly divorced Diana has given us an important signal, says Giles Coren

Prince Charles. The scene was set for a grand performance. The world's media followed her every breath as the hours to decree absolute ticked by. After a spot of lunch with

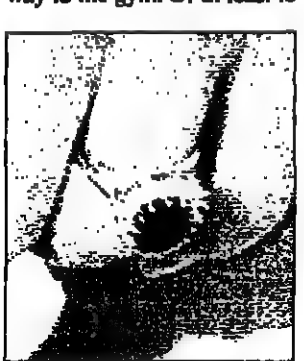
some dancers from the English National Ballet, she appeared in a nice little grey number and made her move. The little white bag, matching the jacket trim, was in perfect

position, and yet she adjusted it. Why? The lenses closed in on the adjusting hand. It was making a strange motion, sliding the strap between middle and fourth fingers.

For she was displaying the diamonds and sapphires of her engagement ring: the memento of the Prince of Wales's proposal. A reminder to the world that it was he, not she, who had asked: "Will you marry me?"

And beneath it was the wedding ring he had slipped on her finger as he made the solemn promises before God which were, at that very moment, being cancelled at Somerset House.

You would expect her to have thrown the wretched ring in the Thames on her way to the gym. Or at least to



The royal rings

have dropped it down a drain as in the famous Volkswagen advert. But she had not.

You might have thought she would at least conceal it for fear of frightening suitors away. But this gesture was a clear indication, or pretence of one, that she was not available, that her heart has been broken, that she is a martyr and deserves our sympathy.

Yet she is not one of those women for whom the wearing of the ring is too painful in the aftermath of doomed love. Nor can she have been unaware of the excitement the ring would generate on this particular day. It was, in short, a very brilliant coup. As the split became legal and the former royal couple went their separate ways, it was to be Diana, as ever, who grabbed the headlines.

"You can take my title," I suppose she is saying. "But you can't pretend I never happened." It doesn't mean a thing, in other words, if you ain't got that ring.

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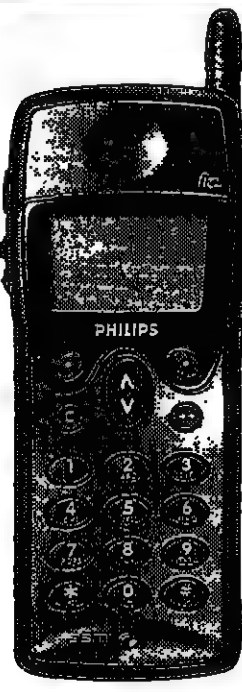
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Will Prince Charles ever be bonnie?

A royal devolutionist could win us over, says Magnus Linklater

It is not surprising that the Prince of Wales should have decided to spend yesterday, the day he became a single man once more, at Balmoral. It's not just that fishing a salmon river, trying to get the feel of the water and wondering whether a change of fly might do the trick, is the best therapy known to man; it's more about the perspective and detachment that a bit of open hillside a long way from London will have offered him as he ponders his future. Questions about divorce, a possible remarriage, his suitability as a monarch for the 21st century, and the role of Camilla Parker Bowles are probably best pondered in such surroundings, always provided he can dodge the telephoto lenses.

There is something to be said too for using Scotland as a sounding-board. For one thing, north of the border, he is not a future Defender of the Faith, one of the many burdens he carries in England, where his position as potential head of the Church dogs his every move. The Scottish Kirk, which has no hierarchy of bishops, which derives its authority from the congregation upwards, and which has never recognised the king as having any position of authority over it, will allow him to make his own decisions unimpeded by doctrine. Last Sunday, within hours of some blurred pictures showing him in the company of Mrs Parker Bowles, senior Anglicans were paraded to warn him once again about any future marriage. He may have been ill-advised to have been seen with her at such a time, but such instant condemnation gives the impression that the Church of England is a source of sound-bites, rather than wise counsel.

That truth is that neither constitutionally nor ecclesiastically there is any reason why divorce should impede Charles's succession to the throne, and the question of remarriage and his suitability for the throne will be influenced not by the Church but by public opinion. Lord Blake, Britain's most eminent constitutional historian, sees no objection to Charles's succession, and the Archbishop of Canterbury agrees with him, though there is a subtle difference in the way they express their views. Lord Blake, who has been consulted by the Royal Family, goes back through history and can find no barrier to the accession of a divorced king; indeed he believed that the unhappy marriage to Diana was itself more of an impediment to the separation. The Archbishop bends more to public sentiment in a nation where the divorce rate is now almost 50 per cent.

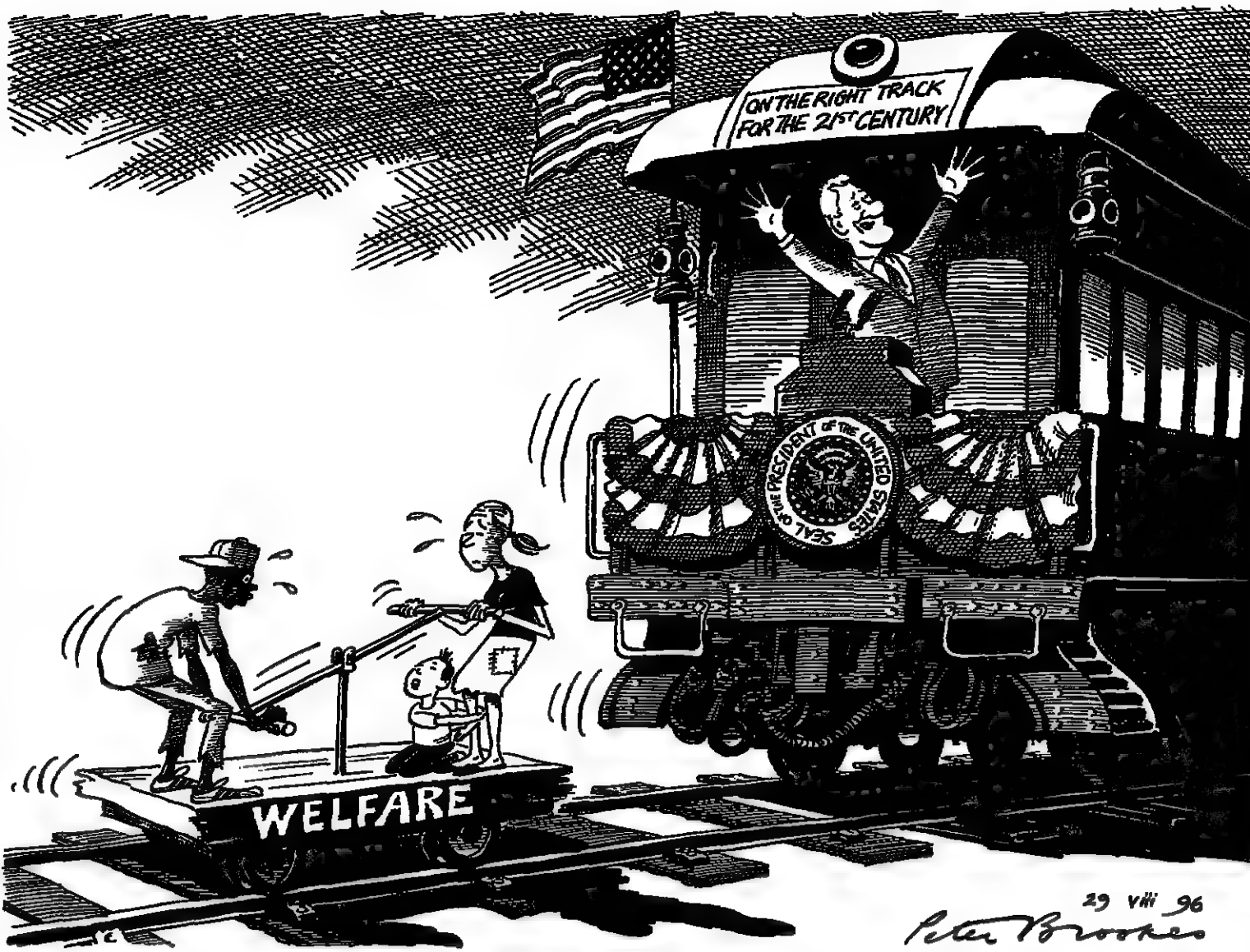
"Whoever Prince Charles did marry would have to become Queen in due course," Lord Blake points out. "There is no such thing in the British constitution as the morganatic marriage... so if Prince Charles did marry again, his choice would have to be one of which his future subjects could approve." So far, opinion polls suggest that the British people would, by a massive majority, be against his marrying Camilla, and the Prince himself has made it clear that he intends no such thing. But that could change, and with it public opinion. The question is, how will that decision be influenced?

Here again, the relatively detached view from Scotland may be relevant. Historically, the Scots have been far less enthusiastic about the monarchy than the English. They accepted the joint rule of William and Mary reluctantly, and viewed the Hanoverian succession with suspicion. When George IV came north in 1822, dressed in a kilt and flesh-coloured tights, he might as well, for all but the tartan-clad chiefs who greeted him, have been a creature from outer space. Since then, despite a surge of republicanism in the 1950s, it has been the behaviour and personality of individual members of the Royal Family which have influenced opinion, rather than the constitutional role itself.

Some of them have won warm support despite the relative decline of the monarchy. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Queen herself and the Princess Royal are popular because they have demonstrated their enthusiasm for the nation itself. They appear to like being here; they spend a disproportionate amount of time north of the border, and they see Scotland as more than just a place to slaughter animals. Charles, who is keen on wild places, and who spent several weeks as a latter-day crofter on Bernera Island, is nevertheless regarded with more suspicion. People, it seems, cannot quite get the measure of him, and this may have something to do with his private life. The Kirk itself, which is not Presbyterian for nothing, took a dim view of his unfaithfulness, probably echoing popular opinion.

But in one respect, the Prince may be ahead of his time, and, as the years begin to heal the wounds of the divorce, he could regain the support he has lost. It is no secret that despite the constraints under which he operates he is an enthusiast for constitutional change. This includes not just his future relationship with the Church, but the whole internal arrangement of the United Kingdom. He is, in short, a closet devolutionist, believing that if Scotland and Wales wish to take their own routes, they should be allowed to. That is far more revolutionary than his intentions, whatever they may be, towards Mrs Parker Bowles, and distinctly more in tune with public opinion. Given time, he may be allowed to speak out about such things. Given time, he may be equally free to marry the woman he loves.

The Prince appears open to suggestions of change



Apartheid of ageism

'Drop dead at 40' might be the motto of the new Channel 5. But do the young want to be Peter Pans?

Dawn Airey is the programme controller of Channel 5, which will start next year. She is therefore a person who may have some influence on our society, though Channel 5 will have only a small share of the television market: 40 per cent of its product will consist of repeats and bought-in foreign shows which will have no more cultural impact than they do when shown elsewhere. Nevertheless, Ms Airey has an opportunity to provide a somewhat different channel with somewhat different programmes.

Last weekend she gave the Edinburgh Television Festival an outline of the new channel's programme philosophy. Channel 5 has, it appears, decided to go for youth. "We're aimed", she said, "at a slightly younger audience than the current channels." That, I suppose, is quite acceptable. If there is a niche in the market for a younger television audience, there is no reason why Channel 5 should not fill it. One may wonder whether youth will really be interested by the 40 per cent of repeats and inexpensive imports, but perhaps the 60 per cent of new products will be more attractive to them.

The odd thing is that Ms Airey went on to argue that youth is an audience which is particularly hard to win. The under-40s already have huge demands on their leisure time, and in her opinion they want their viewing to be "useful", "revelatory" or "entertaining in a modern way". If it is true that youth has too many other things to do to want to watch more television, it suggests that the youth niche may be a marketing illusion.

Without further definition, one cannot tell what is meant by "useful". The idea of "useful" television is a dreary one; it consists of cooking, gardening, travel and "do-it-yourself" programmes, all of which are automatically turned off by many viewers. "Revelatory" too often means investigative programmes into E-numbers, misleading answers to parliamentary questions and slogging out in Scottish prisons, none of which keep the under-40s I know glued to their sets. "Entertaining in a modern way" suggests alternative comedians in dirty macintoshes making jokes

about condoms in studios designed to look like underground car parks. If Channel 5 is indeed going to concentrate on these now traditional types of boring programme, the other television channels will have little to fear, and the youth niche, if it exists, is likely to be left unfilled.

Ms Airey would like to have us think that her new channel will be politically correct. "There will be a sizeable number of non-Caucasian faces and a lot of women," she said. News will be presented by Kirsty Young, a Scottish newsreader, who is only 27 years old. Like the emphasis

William Rees-Mogg

on youth itself, this all seems perfectly familiar. There are a lot of women on all the other channels. Perhaps women still have too few chances to tackle some of the more political and foreign stories, but even there the opportunities have improved. Non-Caucasian faces are not in short supply either, though again there are areas to which black journalists might have better access. All that one can judge from this is that Ms Airey will be a conventional equal opportunities employer.

The question one has to ask is why she allows herself to make so great an exception of the issue of age. She is sympathetic to equal rights for women, and properly so. She is sympathetic to equal rights for different ethnic groups, and properly so. But she is brutally dismissive of people who are over 40. In her address she said: "The forties are only going to get older and they'll take their values with them." It looks as though "drop dead at 40" will be Channel 5's motto.

I have been trying to persuade myself that one should not take this too seriously. It seems from the rest of her speech that Ms Airey has been

only too much influenced by the superficiality of much television culture and by the jargon of marketing. Why should one mind, or let one's self be surprised, if a superficial woman says silly things? It has been noted before that the shallowness of the television and marketing worlds can addle people's brains. Yet I think this argument actually cuts the other way. Ms Airey speaks for many other people of her culture; they might be too shrewd to say that the over-40s and their values do not matter because they are both going to die fairly soon, but it would be their sense of self-preservation which would save them, not any repugnance to that view.

Ageism is a horrible attitude, whichever way one looks at it. In practical terms, it produces as great a reduction of opportunity as the other great prejudices, as racial prejudice or the prejudice against women. Men and women over 40 are still at the height of their practical powers, with experience added to a mature energy. Some jobs require the special qualities of early youth, such as Wimbledon tennis, lyric poetry, command of a platoon in battle, foreign exchange dealing or the "pretty face" jobs in modelling and television. But these jobs are a minority. Lawyers, teachers, bank managers, epic poets, secretaries, publishers, cabinet ministers, all tend to do their jobs at their best when they are over 40. Yet far too many employers refuse to hire people when they have passed a certain age. The peak of human capacity in terms of age is very variable: ageism is just as irrational as racism or sexism, and just as odious.

The damage of ageism to the over-40s is obvious enough. Yet the damage to the under-40s is equally serious, though different. One mistake

that Ms Airey makes is to suppose that the mature values of a society are merely those of the older generation, and that these values will and ought to vanish with that generation. In fact, maturity comes to most people sooner or later, and the mature values of a society allow it to survive through many generations. The mature values of Britain include a sense of justice, a commitment to loyalty, a moderation of response, a respect both for liberty and order. If you want to know what Britain as a nation really thinks, and will go on thinking, you had best talk to the old women, and particularly to those not of the upper class. They are the nation's repository of the permanent truths.

What Ms Airey is saying, and it is quite false, is that the present generation of under-40s will never grow up. It is, in a strange way, a very middle-aged view to take. The 1960s did produce too many of these Peter Pan personalities who denied the values of maturity. Some of them, particularly in television, have risen to positions of influence. One need not speak of the 53-year-old Michael Grade and his influence on Channel 4. This is not the attitude I meet in those who are genuinely still young. They do not want to be Peter Pans; they do not reject maturity or the responsibilities they see ahead of them; they are rather serious and often resent that trivialisation of their culture by their elders.

Ageism damages the old and demeans the young. It also expresses a depressing view of life. We all get older. If from the age of 40 onwards, there is nothing left but decline and the decay of values, then the good bit of life must be very brief and will always be overshadowed by a pessimistic view and a false one. A healthy individual goes on exploring reality until very late in life; some things drop away, but other things are added. A healthy society comprehends the values both of youth and age, and particularly cherishes the values which they share. Ageism should have no more acceptance in our society than any other species of apartheid. We certainly do not need a new ageist television channel.

At present, only active backbench MPs can exercise any direct influence on the choice of leader. At the last leadership election, the electorate was 329, but the payroll vote was at least 100. John Redwood won 89 votes. On that occasion I declared my support for Mr Redwood, along with about 19 other Tory MPs. This is not a very satisfactory system but it is difficult to think of a better. When I voted for Mrs Thatcher in 1975, I did not declare my position. I wanted to keep my constituency party together. Last year (unlike 1975) I thought that by declaring my voting intention I might have some slight influence over other members. I paid the price for any such influence by attracting a lot of criticism from my constituency party, which of course is able to deselect me. What is the national interest in all this? The nation needs a system which secures affirmation or change quickly and yet with authority. What happens if we have a formal electoral college, with Tory MPs having 80 per cent of the votes and the voluntary party the remaining 20 per cent? Such an election would be slow and provoke damaging public discussion between friends. What if the leadership has to be changed quickly owing to illness, as in the cases of Eden or Macmillan? What happens to the royal prerogative? What about the state of the party after a fiercely contested open leadership battle?

Leave the leadership vote alone

Nicholas Budgen

on the role of the Tory backbencher

When *The Times* runs a story about Westminster politics across its front page and supplements it with a first leader, those affected ought to give it some thought. This week Andrew Pierce reported that the Prime Minister is backing plans to give party activists a vote in Tory leadership elections, in return for new candidate selection procedures designed to increase the number of women and non-white MPs. As a Tory backbencher who has had differences of opinion with both John Major and my constituency party, I am certainly affected.

The report bears all the marks of a nudge from the National Union Executive Committee, which is making these proposals. I hope that Mr Major is not "deeply concerned" about his party's lack of women MPs, and that John Taylor's failure at Cheltenham did not "exasperate" him. Such things — unlike, say, the single currency or our troops in Bosnia — have almost nothing to do with him.

The National Union is the voluntary side of the Tory party. It organises the party conference and is the body to which constituency associations belong. Central Office is different. It is the office of the leader of the party. Central Office works with the National Union: sometimes their proximity causes them to forget that their roles are distinct.

There is a power struggle here. The National Union wants more power at the expense of backbench MPs. The National Union has a very important job, advising and supporting the leader, but most of all it should seek to preserve the independence of constituency parties. These have a separate and important role. They influence and sometimes even control their candidate or MP. A Tory MP is selected only by his constituency party. He cannot be deselected by the whips or the Prime Minister.

If the constituency parties are deprived of their influence over MPs, and candidates, what are they about? They can be asked to raise more money. They can be consulted and even enrolled. However, in the end they are deprived of influence and power. People may work for the Tory party because they enjoy the work or want to be councillors, but many, if not most, want to have a say in how the country is governed.

Yesterday *The Times* reported that Archie Norman is to be chairman of Asda, the supermarket group. Mr Norman is apparently an ardent Tory and has political ambitions, but he is unlikely to stand for Parliament at the next election. Another report reads: "He does not appear to see much point in being an MP on the losing side. In other words he is interested only in running a department."

That is a view of our role: to be part of the group from which the Government is drawn. It is not the whole role. Some of us are backbenchers and nothing else. The Nolan committee and the drift towards full-time MPs prevent us from expending much of our working energy outside the House. So what should the backbench MP do? The active Tory backbench MP has no more than two independent roles. First, he can support just one cause. It does not matter much what; provided you have only one big bet in your bonnet at any one time, you may even be listened to. Secondly, the backbencher has a duty to keep his eye on the performance of the leader, and in so doing he ought to think of the widest possible interest.

At present, only active backbench MPs can exercise any direct influence on the choice of leader. At the last leadership election, the electorate was 329, but the payroll vote was at least 100. John Redwood won 89 votes. On that occasion I declared my support for Mr Redwood, along with about 19 other Tory MPs. This is not a very satisfactory system but it is difficult to think of a better. When I voted for Mrs Thatcher in 1975, I did not declare my position. I wanted to keep my constituency party together. Last year (unlike 1975) I thought that by declaring my voting intention I might have some slight influence over other members. I paid the price for any such influence by attracting a lot of criticism from my constituency party, which of course is able to deselect me. What is the national interest in all this? The nation needs a system which secures affirmation or change quickly and yet with authority. What happens if we have a formal electoral college, with Tory MPs having 80 per cent of the votes and the voluntary party the remaining 20 per cent? Such an election would be slow and provoke damaging public discussion between friends. What if the leadership has to be changed quickly owing to illness, as in the cases of Eden or Macmillan? What happens to the royal prerogative? What about the state of the party after a fiercely contested open leadership battle?

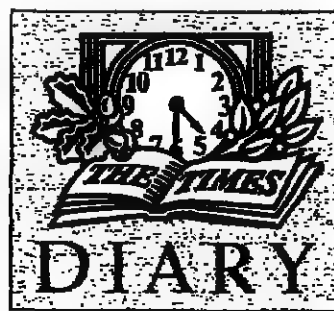
The present system is not perfect, but if the party wants vigorous party activists and a few genuine backbenchers, it would do well to drop these proposals. Though we should of course thank Robin Hodgson of the National Union, Brian Mawhinney, Norman Fowler and the Prime Minister for their disinterested dis-

Spin it to me

THE MOST famous single woman in the world made a beeline yesterday for the Labour Party's most famous single man, Diana, Princess of Wales, button-holed Peter Mandelson over a canapé and glass of mineral water at yesterday's English National Ballet lunch, engaging him in earnest discussion.

There have been ludicrous suggestions that Diana may want to become a Labour MP, but this is not what concerned the pair in the five-minute conversation. Instead, after a brief chat about ballet, the pair turned to spin-doctoring. Mandelson, strategist behind Labour's election campaign, took the opportunity of his first meeting with the Princess to display his feline charms in the art. Diana may have appointed a new private secretary to manage her financial affairs this week, but she is still without a press adviser.

Mandelson, who is a board member of the Ballet, would not comment, but a fellow guest at the lunch remarked that the two got on famously. "They were locked together for a good five minutes," she said. "It was the first time Peter had met her." Afterwards, Diana moved on to chat with that priestess of presentation, high-kicking Angela Rippon.



● The ultimate accolade has been accorded Imran Khan's wife, Jemima. A saucier in Pakistan has branded his new range after her. Jemima's Tanga Ketchup, Jemima's Chilli and Garlic Sauce and Jemima's Bokhara Sauce, all emblazoned with a huge "J", are on the shelves. Most popular, however, is Jemima's Mix Pickle.

Punch him

IN THE offices of *Punch*, staff are failing to find life as funny as it used to be. Lacks on the satirical magazine, which has been resurrected by Mohamed Al Fayed (in case you hadn't noticed), are at their wits' end over the musical aspirations of their managing editor, moustachioed Mike Mellow (in-

mer Editor-in-Chief of the Mirror Group. A founder member of the Useless Piece of Information Society, Mellow has taken to swanning around the offices rapping on a harmonica like a talented street performer. "It's very distracting and really rather odd," moans one exasperated hack.

Roaring boys

WHAT is it about Liz Hurley's friends and the Los Angeles Police Department? After her boyfriend Hugh Grant was caught with a prostitute off Sunset Boulevard last year, her best friend, Henry Dent-



Brocklehurst, now faces being imprisoned for speeding.

Before the incident, Henry had been attending a lunch with Princess Margaret and the model Lisa B. He had promised Lisa a lift to her next venue — an audition of some sort — but Princess Margaret got carried away with proceedings and the lunch dragged on.

Henry was hauled in by the California Highway Patrol, clocking 40mph over the limit trying to deliver Lisa to her appointment on time.

"The LAPD weren't very sympathetic to the fact that we had been delayed by Princess Margaret," says Henry, now back in Blighy, who says he will be imprisoned as soon as he sets foot in the US unless he attends an imminent hearing in California.

High stakes

HEARTENING to discover that Michael Green, the frightfully successful head of Carlton Communications, enjoyed the company of women and gamblers in his youth. An unauthorised biography of the millionaire claims that at parties "he was usually the one upstairs under a pile of coats with a girl".

The author, Raymond Snoddy, who works as media commentator at the *Financial Times*, adds that in the old days Green used to join



Louisa Symington with news from the metropolis. 88 years old

poker game at his house in St John's Wood on Friday nights.

The book will hearten those who managed to fail their GCSEs this summer. Green scraped only three O levels. "Remarkably for someone who is now noted for his ability to devour numbers and extract useful information from a balance sheet as if it were a novel, Green did not pass O-level mathematics," writes Snoddy.

Post haste

STRIKES APART, the Post Office

by a postcard just received by Louisa Symington at her home in Brook Green, west London.

The card, which came from central London, was posted to a former occupant of her home in 1908. The stamp bears the head of the Queen's great-grandfather — but has only just arrived.

The picture is a sepia-tinted daguerrotype showing a prim Edwardian in a frilled shirt. "I hope you are in the best of health," writes the correspondent. "You might come up to shop and see us."

D. L. C



CRIME AND CRISIS

Belgium's paedophile scandal threatens the country itself

The horrendous Marc Dutroux affair has brought Belgium together across their sharp linguistic and cultural divide. But increasingly they are united in doubt and disgust with their fractured and scandal-ridden political system. The great outflow of public mourning for the two eight-year-old victims whose funeral was held last week has been succeeded by a mood of mounting revolt. Ever more is being revealed of the extraordinary and repeated failures of Belgium's various police forces to act on a mass of evidence that was available to them as far back as 1992. In *Le Soir's* crisp and unforgiving headline "Everything was known and nothing was done." It is a verdict that sends tremors through the fragile, fractious Belgian state.

With the arrest of a senior detective and a politically well-connected Brussels businessman, the conviction is spreading that Dutroux benefited from official protection. His early release from prison against the advice of the public prosecutor — a decision that has yet to be justified by ministers — was already scandalous enough. How, people ask, could a convicted multiple rapist have been allowed to cruise the Low Countries undetected, picking up children for the purposes of what appears to have been a far-flung and highly profitable paedophile ring?

The Government's initial misjudgment of the public mood has fanned suspicions of a cover-up. Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, decided not to break his holiday to attend the two girls' funeral and broke silence on the affair only this week. The more his Government now insists that it wants to keep politics out of the investigation, the more the atmosphere thickens.

Michel Bourlet, the public prosecutor investigating Dutroux and no fewer than nine others, has announced his intention of prosecuting each person he can identify on the hundreds of pornographic paedophile videos that have been seized. What held the

public's attention was his addition of the telling little phrase: "if I am allowed to do so". Ministers promise that he is under no pressure, other than to establish the truth about this sordid tragedy. A sceptical public questions whether he will fare better than other prosecutors. They have yet to get to the bottom of a whole string of criminal scandals involving politicians, from the unresolved murder in 1991 of the politician André Coombs to the massive Agusta bribery affair which claimed the careers of several ministers and brought down Willy Claes, the Belgian Secretary-General of Nato.

Belgium's politicians need convincing and early details of the precise extent of the Dutroux network. However slight the evidence that a cover-up reaches higher than the local police, a revived suspicion of authority will compound this improbable country's chronic identity crisis. The gloom over last month's festivities to mark its 165 years of existence is darker and deeper now.

When Belgium's neighbours give it thought, it is chiefly as the European Union's administrative capital; but the international status of Brussels is no guide to its role as a hub of the Belgian nation. That role has been made all but obsolete by sweeping federalist reforms under which Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels region have acquired extensive autonomy from the national Government.

However bitterly they bicker across the linguistic divide, most Belgians would still balk at divorce. But the more the centre concedes, the more militant become the separatist demands of Flemish nationalist politicians in the prosperous north. If Belgium is to hold together, it must be by the centre's moral authority. That has been gravely weakened by the State's failure to protect young children from an unspeakable criminal conspiracy that, every family in the land believes, could and should have been detected not months but years ago.

GENDER POLITICS

Washington wives and the American electorate

There are few aspects of the American elections more alien to the outsider than the role played by the presidential spouses. Hillary Clinton spoke forcefully in Chicago on Tuesday night. Elizabeth Dole stole the Republican show in San Diego. Although Mrs Clinton has been a powerful force upon the President and Mrs Dole has been a Cabinet member in her own right, such a degree of prominence seems excessive. The position of First Lady has no official standing and few ballots can be cast on the basis of it. Various explanations can be made. Because the President is more Head of State than Head of Government, his office and all associated with it contain much that is symbolic. More broadly, the public standing of Mrs Clinton and Mrs Dole reflects changing perspectives towards women. There are a number of reasons, including accusations of hypocrisy in her financial dealings, why Mrs Clinton has been such a controversial figure. But it is her very career which fires both detractors and admirers.

Behind all this is the enormous importance that gender now plays in American elections. After race it is now the most striking and significant division in the electorate. In present polls female voters give Bill Clinton the lead by margins of up to 30 points: among men he runs even, at best. Although this disparity is the widest seen so far it follows a 20-year period in which women have moved to the Democrats — a trend that runs counter to past historical patterns. Had only women participated in the 1960 contest, Richard Nixon not John Kennedy would have become President.

This gender gap, although frequently noted by pollsters, is still considered an oddity. This President's reputation for private dealings with women would not necessarily be thought an advantage for

him. Theories are offered that the Reagan-Gingrich agenda, with its economic centrepiece, hostility to government services, distaste for the welfare state, opposition to abortion and tough position on crime, has an emphasis and tone that attracts men and repels women. There is little evidence that any of that is the case.

Because there are far more women in the workplace, the question of tax levels or federal spending should be more, not less, salient than in the past. Fear of crime is at least as important for the female electorate. On average slightly more men than women favour open access to abortion. It is difficult to see why issues such as education should suddenly have become predominantly associated with women, especially as, if pollsters are to be believed, the data suggests they are not. A broad sense of whether political parties are empathetic or not appears to be much more important than specific policies.

It is within this context that the election this year is fought. That is what demands the high profile of both Mrs Clinton and Mrs Dole. Republicans, having allowed their attitude towards the sexual revolution to be painted by the more vocal element of the Religious Right, spent their convention trying to counter that impression. They proudly displayed their own women officeholders while placing Mrs Clinton in the radical feminist fringe. Although as much a professional woman as the First Lady, if not more so, Mrs Dole has used a softer tone and her stewardship of the American Red Cross to reinforce that message. The Democrats have responded through Mrs Clinton's attempts to capture the family values rhetoric that Republicans have lately dominated. It is a battle of interpretation, critical to the final outcome, that will run all the way to polling day.

ANOTHER COUNTRY

However inconvenient, no one can relive the past

the childhood maketh the man, what is a man to do whose family background clashes with his adult image? He cannot change his upbringing; he has either to fabricate, embroider or draw a veil over it. Robert De Niro, consummate actor of low-life roles, adopted the third strategy, while his studio liked to suggest that his past was as tough as his parts. But now the truth is out: De Niro's childhood was embarrassingly happy.

De Niro is revealed in a new biography to have been the well-behaved child of loving parents. Far from battling on Mean Streets or consorting with Godfathers, De Niro came from a slightly bohemian, artistic family and steered well clear of trouble. His closest brush with delinquency was to be thrown out of a department store for travelling the wrong way up an escalator with his friends: not the sturdiest of qualifications for a life spent playing gangsters, street boxers and hoodlums.

De Niro is by no means the first to have suffered this dissonance between image and reality. Sixties bad boys such as Mick Jagger dropped their consonants to hide the legacy of middle-class upbringings and university educations. In that era of fashionably flat northern vowels, anyone born north of Milton Keynes claimed a gritty mining heritage. By the Eighties, when southern was trendy again, the line demarcating the two nations

moved back well north of Derby. Politicians are particularly prey to the temptation to play up (or down) their childhoods. Michael Meacher, the Labour frontbencher, claimed working-class antecedence that was some distance from the actuality. Tony Benn, the son of a peer, resents any suggestion that his father was an aristocrat.

In the old days, Tories would try to upgrade themselves socially. Michael Heseltine still insists on wearing a Guards tie even though he spent just a truncated period of National Service in the regiment before escaping to fight a seat. His colleague, Douglas Hurd, felt in the 1990 Tory leadership contest that he had to offset his Etonian education by insisting that his father was merely a tenant farmer. Having gone to Eton now handicaps a Conservative.

Not only do people have no power to change their early years once they become adults: the real problem is that they had none at the time. The circumstances of childhood are decided at birth by parents over whom children have no choice. For roughly 18 years, they are at the whim of their family's class, taste in houses, attitudes to education and so on. As our series this week has shown, people's lives can be powerfully affected by their place in the sibling hierarchy. The past may be another country but the map cannot be redrawn.

Vicarious danger of medical films

From Mr Tony Van den Bergh

Sir, In 1987, for Central TV, my hip-replacement was filmed at the Royal Free Hospital. *Treat Me Gently* — as the film was titled — subsequently won a world award for medical TV. The operation was carried out under a spinal anaesthetic so that I was able to comment at every stage.

Everyone concerned agreed in advance to be filmed and only a third of the film was focused on the actual operation. The rest was concentrated on pre-op exercises, tests and the training of medical students. Afterwards several of the paramedics told me that until they watched the transmission they had never realised where exactly their skills had slotted into the overall scheme. *Treat Me Gently* has been used widely for training nurses, and arthritic patients have written to me saying that they had been afraid of having surgery until they'd seen it.

For my BBC radio series, *Lifelines of Medicine*, which ran from the mid-1960s to the 1980s, I recorded many operations, describing what was happening as I stood at the surgeon's elbow. There was never any suggestion that we were pondering the darker side of our viewers' or listeners' natures.

What then is the difference between those programmes and *Everyday Operations* (report, August 28)? Surely it is one of intent. We were motivated by the wish to dispel ignorance, not to entertain or cater to those who appear to derive vicarious thrills from blood and the scalpel. Profit was never our incentive.

Before any medical programme is put onto the open market, everyone involved, from surgeon to theatre porter, must agree with the filming. Every patient must be told in advance that the programme is to be publicly marketed.

Without the patient's wholehearted agreement not only is medical confidentiality jeopardised but a gross invasion of privacy can be committed.

Yours etc,
TONY VAN DEN BERGH,
5 Antrim Grove, NW3,
August 28.

School standards

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, John Rae (Education, August 23) points out that many state schools are improving their results compared with the independent sector, but wrongly maintains that this might be threatened by some Labour policies.

Labour is proposing targets for continuous improvements for all schools — primary and secondary — which will expect every school to exceed its previous performance in exam results. Such targets are working successfully in inner-city LEAs such as Birmingham and Newcastle.

Labour will also insist that league tables measure how well a school is improving compared with the previous year and what progress has been made between entry at 11 and GCSE and A levels. In that way, we can see how well a school is really performing.

Dr Rae himself concedes that these improvements are occurring in comprehensives as well as selective schools. Grant-maintained schools will continue to run their own affairs if they become foundation schools under Labour's plans for local partnerships — and they will also set their own targets for improvement. All schools will be expected to improve on their previous best.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons,
August 23.

From Ms Janet Menzies

Sir, In 1976 I achieved three A grades and one B at A level, often working 12 hours a day in the process. Even now I and many of my friends are visited by anxiety dreams from that period. If today's teenagers are under less pressure (letters, August 17, 21, 24), then it can only be for the better. I wish them good luck.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MENZIES,
Brambledown,
The Avenue, Westerham, Kent.

Degrees of difference

From Professor David J. Bacon

Sir, The Registrar of the University of Teesside is quoted (Education, August 23) as observing:

There are two types of students: those who want to do a traditional type of degree — such as history or English — and those who want to do something that is creative and allows them to have fun and make their own choices when they graduate.

To think that we traditionalists have educated generations of students in the arts, engineering, humanities, medicine and science without recognising the creative way ahead!

I'm just wondering if the old fuddy-duddies here will allow me to introduce a course in Materials Science with Scouse Humour. That, surely, would give my department the edge over the comedians elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BACON,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Materials Science
and Engineering,
Liverpool L69 3BX,
August 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Concern for the victim in rape cases

From Mr A. A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Commenting on the inexcusable treatment of the victim in the Edwards rape trial you write in your leading article, "Trials of rape" (August 23), that "judges should not feel that they have to give those who defend themselves greater leeway because of their lack of legal knowledge" (see also letter, August 24).

The problem is due, however, to the fact that those who represent themselves are given as much leeway as lawyers. After all, the special statutory prohibition on questioning rape victims about their sexual history had to be introduced because lawyers, not their clients, subjected rape victims to irrelevant and offensive questioning.

All too often cross-examination is directed to confuse, unsettle and even denigrate the witness, in the hope of undermining her self-confidence and reducing her credibility in the eyes of the jury. This sort of practice was not invented by defendants representing themselves. It has been exercised predominantly by lawyers and in all types of prosecutions.

Judges allow it because cross-examination is thought to be an effective method of getting at the truth. But this is very much to be doubted. As we well know, persons who are confused and upset are not very good at conveying information, nor is it easy to assess their reliability in such a state.

The former Lord Justice of Appeal, Sir Frederick Lawton, is right to question the need for the gruelling six-day cross-examination of this victim (report, August 23). But we should question the wisdom of allowing such practices at all, whether employed by defendants or their lawyers, rather than merely curtail the right of the defendants in rape cases.

Yours truly,
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN,
University College, Oxford,
August 24.

'Mandela bashing'

From the Acting High Commissioner for South Africa

Sir, Although I do not contest any commentator's right to engage in "Mandela bashing", R. W. Johnson's recent contributions (articles, August 22, 23) seem to me to reflect the views of those in South Africa who appear to be more terrified than thrilled by the prospect and reality of change. As a leading newspaper in South Africa wrote recently, many of those "are so busy soaking in the bad news in South Africa that all the good that South Africa has achieved in the country is being blurred" (*Pretoria News*, August 2).

The political transformation in South Africa is an exciting and refreshing experience for the great majority of people, particularly those whose rights had been curtailed, repressed or denied in the past. The new South Africa is, by and large, characterised by a constructive and positive mood, despite daunting social and economic challenges.

The majority of South Africans feel the situation is improving and see a country with a new sense of national identity, a model liberal-democratic constitution, and an expanding economy. Archbishop Tutu very aptly wrote this week: "The air in South Africa is new; it has the freshness of freedom and the inspiration of a challenge" (*International Herald Tribune*, August 20).

The Government is tackling its challenges head on, not least through the recently announced macro-economic and crime-prevention strategies. Why not afford President Mandela's Government a fair chance to build on the successes already achieved?

Yours faithfully,
GERT J. GROBLER,
South African High Commission,
Trafalgar Square, WC2,
August 23.

Galapagos tortoises

From the Chairman of the Galapagos Conservation Trust

Sir, The mysterious deaths of giant tortoises on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos are certainly serious, but we do not yet know if the cause is a "deadly virus", nor whether there is a threat to the entire subspecies as your leading article, "Treasure islands no more" (August 23), suggests. The known toll so far is not serious but, as you reported correctly elsewhere in the same issue, eight dead and nine sick.

It is not true that the Galapagos have suffered "decades of breathtaking negligence". Until quite recently the islands were a model example of how to run a tourist industry within a national park. The situation has worsened in the 1990s, but it is unfair to put all the blame on the Ecuadorian Government. Conservation costs money and Ecuador has pressing economic prob-

lems. We believe that other, far wealthier countries (including Britain) could have done much more to help.

Introduced species of plants and animals, especially goats, threaten the islands' unique biodiversity. But at present fishermen — many of whom have migrated there in the last two or three years — pose a much greater threat than farmers. The Ecuadorian Constitution was recently amended to allow control of human immigration, and the newly installed President is currently reviewing a law which seeks to introduce it.

Ecuador needs international support in the fight to conserve Galapagos. If we cannot save a place as special as this, what hope is there for the rainforests, or any other threatened part of the planet?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN FITTER, Chairman,
Galapagos Conservation Trust,
18 Curzon Street, W1,
August 23.

Business letters, page 29

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171 782 5046.

From Mr Peter Duffy

Sir, Today you report concerns that the European Convention on Human Rights may prevent restricting the right of an accused in rape cases to conduct his own defence, including cross-examining a rape victim. This concern is unfounded.

The case law of the European Court of Human Rights establishes that the right to defend oneself in person is not absolute. In *Croissant v Germany* (1992) 16 EHRR 135, the European Court of Human Rights specifically ruled that it is compatible with the Convention for a state to require that a criminal defendant should act through a lawyer (paragraph 27).

Nothing in the Convention would prevent extending to adult rape victims the protection from questioning by the accused which child sex abuse victims already enjoy. Indeed, far from blocking such reform, compliance with the Convention impels its urgent consideration.

In March of this year, the Court of Human Rights ruled (*Doorn v Netherlands*) that victims' rights are safeguarded under the Convention, in particular the right to privacy under Article 8. States should, the court said, organise their criminal proceedings in such a way that victims' interests are not unjustifiably imperilled; and, in appropriate cases, the interests of the defence are to be balanced against those of the witnesses or victims called upon to testify (paragraph 70 of the judgment).

The dreadful plight faced by the victim during the Edwards trial cannot sensibly be described as striking the fair balance between the interests of the defence and the protection of the victims' interests as the Convention requires.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DUFFY (Editor,
European Human Rights Reports),
Essex Court Chambers,
24 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
August 23.

terised by a constructive and positive mood, despite daunting social and economic challenges.

The majority of South Africans feel the situation is improving and see a country with a new sense of national identity, a model liberal-democratic constitution, and an expanding economy. Archbishop Tutu very aptly wrote this week: "The air in South Africa is new; it has the freshness of freedom and the inspiration of a challenge" (*International Herald Tribune*, August 20).

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Yours faithfully,
JULIAN FITTER, Chairman,
Galapagos Conservation Trust,
18 Curzon Street, W1,
August 23.

Royals and faith

From the Reverend Dominic Barrington

Sir, In a nation where all too few children learn any religion at their mother's knee (Dr Beckwith's letter, August 27; see also letters, August 23), let alone continue to practise it in later life, I would rejoice at an heir to the throne being brought up by a parent who was a committed member of a Christian church, whether Anglican, Roman Catholic or Nonconformist.

Surely the era has passed when denominational difference bears any serious relevance to a monarchy which has coped with being both Anglican and Presbyterian at the same time for some centuries?

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC BARRINGTON
(Assistant Curate,
Northolt with East Sheen Ministry),
5 Vernon Road, SW14,
August 27.

Business letters, page 29

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171 782 5046.

Exam questions to baffle and bemuse

From Sir Patrick Cable-Alexander

Sir, The following question was set in a recent examination:

In an attempt to bring about positive changes in working relationships, it has been agreed that a staff group should be set up with the aim of looking at the interactions between members and to explore interpersonal issues.

a) Describe some of the group processes that may hinder the effective working of the group in its early stages of development.

b) Discuss the facilitator's role, as a change agent, in helping the group to work through their defence.

I defy anybody to guess the profession for which this examination was set, let alone the meaning of the question. It actually comes from a paper for Enrolled Nurses upgrading to Registered General Nurses.

Quite what relevance it has to nursing and "client" (as patients are referred to in another question) care I do not know, and I doubt if anybody does. It is typical of the way the nursing profession has been hijacked by management and theory at the expense of good old-fashioned nursing care.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PATRICK CABLE-ALEXANDER,
Windrush House,
Hoe Court, Lancing, West Sussex,
August 27.

'The greatest glory'

From Mr T. F. R. G. Braun

Sir, When Pericles, according to Thucydides, said "the greatest glory of a woman is to be least talked about by men", he was not casting women "in a negative role" (letter, August 26) but holding them in high respect. Causing offence to an Athenian's (unnamed) sister had cost the tyrant Hipparchus his life. Their menfolk would not stand for women's names being bandied about.

Compare Dr De Lacy O'Leary's warning in *Colloquial Arabic* (1926): "It is a grave discourtesy to refer to the women of a family; no inquiry after them can be made nor any remark which betrays a consciousness of their existence."

Twenty years ago I was the guest of a Syrian villager, custodian of the local antiquities. For a week I shared a room with his son. Was the father, I wondered, an otherwise childless widower? On the last day a door opened and I was presented to his smiling wife and ten beautiful daughters. "For any of these cherished women," said my host as he accompanied me to the bus, "I would give my life".

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BRAUN
(Dean and Tutor in Ancient History),
Merton College, Oxford,
August 27.

Cats and cowpox

From Dr Derrick Baxby, FRCPath

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttford, in his recent Medical Briefing, "Dangers lurk in a cuddle with your cat" (August 20), refers to my work on human and feline cowpox. In case any reader is worried about the risks of catching cowpox from their cat I must point out that cats do not carry cowpox virus; only cats with obvious skin lesions are a risk.

Feline cowpox is relatively uncommon and cowpox virus is of low infectivity for humans; the chance of catching cowpox from an infected cat is around 1 per cent, and no one has caught cowpox after the feline case has been diagnosed and simple precautions taken.

Incidentally the "wildlife reservoir" referred to by Dr Stuttford is more likely to consist of bankvoles and woodlice than rats.

Yours sincerely,
DERRICK BAXBY,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Medical Microbiology
and Genito-urinary Medicine,
Duncan Building,
Daulby Street, Liverpool,
August 22.

Naval ordnance

From Mr James Meacham

Sir, Your reporter is quite wrong to speak of USS *Missouri's* "16-inch howitzers". The long tubes on this warship are guns. Howitzers are different things, used mainly by armies.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. MEACHAM
(Commander, US Navy (ret'd)),
The Pillared Cottage,
Witham on the Hill,
Bourne, Lincolnshire,
August 26.

A good runner?

From Mr Clive Thomas

Sir, Your report today accompanying the photograph taken in 1924 of the perfect AA member, Mr Albert Pantony, mentions that his 1923 Triumph motorcycle has given him 73 trouble-free years and is still going strong.

Is it too much to hope for that the same might be said of his elegant girlfriend riding pillion?

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ST. J. THOMAS,
Hillside House,
Wrotham, Kent,
August 27.

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Please apply with a full CV, quoting reference 1228/FT to Adrian Wheale or Tom O'Neill at Wheale Thomas Hodgins Plc, Executive Resourcing, 13 Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1HG.



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Call Mike/Jeff/Ann, at 01276 476 866 (T) / 479 666 (F) Compuserve 72274.2426. Interviews this week. Other Vacs.



BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

Appointment of Director General

The British Safety Council is an independent campaigning and educational body. Established with the primary objective of preventing accidents, injury and disease and promoting health in the workplace. The council continues to promote health, safety, and environmental awareness and to help workplaces to identify and manage risks.

Following the death in service of James Tye we are seeking to appoint a new Director General reporting to the Board of Governors.

The successful candidate will have a staff of over 100 and lead a team of managers running the full range of the Council's affairs.

Well educated and able to demonstrate a successful general management career, you should also understand and be committed to the Council's aims and objectives, whilst having the vision to take it forward. At the same time retaining the integrity and professionalism required of a high profile campaigning organisation.

An ability to represent the Council and its

member companies with Government, and in business and public life, and to highlight safety awareness at all levels is considered essential.

This is an important appointment and the successful candidate will enjoy a hectic but satisfactory work schedule as head of a dedicated and enthusiastic team.

Candidates should write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, enclosing a full curriculum vitae and send to:

BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

National Safety Centre, 70 Chancellors Road, London W6 9RS

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Oracle's recruitment team is dedicated to responding for the Oracle Corporation. We have opportunities in various areas, if you would like to be considered for any other roles within Oracle, please send your CV to the address above.

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£45,000-£60,000
+ BONUS

CITY OF LONDON

MEDIUM-SIZED U.K. GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY:
SUBSIDIARY OF MAJOR MULTINATIONAL

Our client is a UK subsidiary of a recognised world leader within the financial services sector and a long-established, principal and innovative force in the insurance markets. The Group Accountant reports to the Finance Director and is responsible for statutory reporting, exercising control over a balance sheet of £1,000m and managing a department of over 30 people. The group has undergone considerable change to take advantage of the dynamic situation in the UK insurance industry and the Accounts function has progressed accordingly. The successful applicant will continue this change process including the upgrade of systems and the motivation and development of staff, to ensure the company maintains its top-quartile position into the next millennium. We invite applications from qualified Chartered Accountants with 10 years' experience in the general insurance and/or London market, gained with a company or as a specialist in the profession. The successful applicant is likely to be an experienced manager skilled in the effective management of resources, with excellent communication skills and the ability to initiate change. He or she will also have the potential for promotion to the position of Finance Director in several years' time. Initial remuneration within a range of £45,000 - £60,000 plus excellent bonus and benefits package. Applications in strict confidence under reference GAI 5713/TT to the Managing Director, ALPS.

Head of Procurement Raw Materials/Natural Resources

c.£80,000 + Benefits

London

Exceptional opportunity for senior procurement professional to lead development plans for supply chain management in this sector leading PLC.

THE COMPANY

- ◆ Acquisitive and profitable PLC. Turnover £1bn+. International importer and distributor of raw/natural materials.
- ◆ Expanding international business. Clear plans for growth in core markets.
- ◆ Dynamic management team committed to programme of change and improvement. Drive towards best supply chain practice and leading-edge business systems.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Report direct to Chief Operating Officer. Strategic and operational responsibility for Group purchasing on world markets, ensuring continuity and integrity of supply chain.
- ◆ Strengthen existing supplier partnerships, reduce costs and raise quality standards. Maintain strong marketplace and trade association links.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref LD60504/R, to NBS, Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5SX



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Our team of Healthcare Consultants needs completion. Your career background may be varied but you will have worked within the NHS or the Pharmaceutical industry - ideally within a project management role.

Your brief within Pfizer will be to work with a Regional Business Unit to creatively explore business opportunities and general commercial projects.

These will enhance the Company's reputation as a world provider of quality healthcare whilst meeting the needs of

the NHS customers. A sensitive and persuasive networker you will be able to build trust with key influencers both in the NHS and within the Company. Professionally credible you will enjoy working with the complexities of NHS and pharmaceutical strategies to identify opportunities which will produce tangible outcomes.

We currently have a specific requirement for a Healthcare Consultant within the MA/M40 corridor. Regardless of your location however, if you feel your background is appropriate, please apply now as other opportunities may arise in the near future.

For an application form and job profile please telephone our consultants at Royce Recruitment during normal business hours Monday-Friday. Lines open until 7pm Thursday.

Royce are closed on the August Bank Holiday Monday. Recent applicants need not re-apply as their details remain on file.

0131-226 6419

Chief Executive

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children

c.£50,000

Central London

An exciting and challenging opportunity to lead a charity, which dates back to 1739 and works with children and young people in ways which redress loss and deprivation to enable them to achieve their full potential.

THE FOUNDATION

- ◆ Currently providing a specialist adoption and post adoption service for "hard to place" children, a residential and support experience for young people leaving care, and a supervised and unsupervised contact centre for parents and children from broken families.

THE TASK

- ◆ Maximise use of Coram's resources, high level of expertise and growing volunteer force to make Coram the focus for those involved in childcare, its study and practice.
- ◆ Develop and fully utilise three core sites for children and families in the local community and transform the headquarters into a museum to house its valuable heritage.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ A creative leader with organisational skills, entrepreneurial flair and drive to take the Foundation forward at a crucial time in its development.
- ◆ Experience of childcare, the caring professions or voluntary organisations preferable, and an interest in the arts.
- ◆ High-profile role requiring excellent communication and leadership skills, fund-raising abilities and a breadth of contacts across the public and private sectors.

Please send full cv, stating salary, by 16th September 1996, ref ED68802, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX.



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For a free mutually exploratory meeting, please call:

Edinburgh - Lindsay Grant - 0131 225 8414 Glasgow - Brian Gray - 0141 221 4422

Harrogate - Gavin Brown - 01423 509 467 Newcastle - Graham Smith - 0191 477 4321

London - Peter Collinson - 0171 930 5041 - fax 0171 976 5290 - 19 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0ES.

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The candidate will...

- ◆ have managed a systems engineering group and have a deep understanding of operational issues in a client server environment.
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- ◆ have expert knowledge of commercial project management methods and have an in-depth appreciation of the real time mobile transaction processing needs of the Land Transport market worldwide.

SMS is one of the World's top mobile information systems companies handling major contracts throughout the world. If you feel that you have the necessary experience to make a significant impact in this high profile role, please send your CV, current salary package and a contact telephone number to:
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In New Zealand we love bright, innovative thinkers.

From Sir Edmund Hillary and Everest to Sir Ernest Rutherford and nuclear physics, New Zealand has certainly produced its share of the world's innovators. It's a country where resilience and resourcefulness are respected and appreciated. Ideal for professionals who are eager to establish a reputation in a diverse and responsive business community.

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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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- Financial Management / Corporate Finance
- Corporate Governance
- Business Process Re-engineering
- Internal Audit
- Strategic Management

Continuing growth means that we now have opportunities for exceptional business professionals to join us. You must be a strong team player, display well-developed interpersonal skills, be committed to delivering excellence in customer service, demonstrate commercial awareness and also have the ability to identify and secure new business for the organisation.

In addition to an attractive remuneration package, we are committed to ensuring our consultants achieve an appropriate balance in their professional and private lives.

Please contact our consultants, Saw Lindsay or Barbara Troy on 64-4-882 1730. Alternatively fax us on 64-4-882 1730 or post your resume to KPMG Executive Resources, PO Box 94-096, Wellington, New Zealand. Applications close on Friday 13 September 1996.

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Smith System Engineering is a leading specialist consulting firm providing advice on the application of advanced technology. Working for government and industry customers in the UK, Continental Europe, Africa and the Far East we have developed an unrivalled reputation for the quality of our staff and of the services we offer.

We are based in Guildford and Brussels and are looking for a senior personnel professional to manage recruitment, career development, training and reward of 130 staff. This is a new appointment, with a direct reporting line to the Managing Director, where the Head of Personnel will be expected to advise and support the senior management of the firm.

We are looking for an independent, dynamic, innovative and persuasive individual who can demonstrate significant achievement in harnessing career and commercial objectives

as well as being able to relate well to our technical and support staff, the majority of whom are under 40 years of age. The ideal candidate will be educated to a good honours degree standard, possibly with a science or engineering background, and will hold the MIPD qualification.

If you would like to apply for this demanding and stimulating position, please send a full CV, photograph and details of current and recent remuneration to: Mrs E. Elliot, Acting Head of Personnel, Smith System Engineering Limited, Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5YP.

Smith

System Engineering Consultants, Guildford

Merchandise Manager

Circa £24,000

Basildon, Essex

Barnardo's is the UK's biggest children's charity. Children are at the heart of everything we do. Giving them practical help to improve their lives inspires our innovative work. Tackling today's issues - we help children, young people and their families make the most of life.

Our Merchandising Division plays a vital role funding Barnardo's projects by selling giftware through our chain of over 300 retailers and by mail order.

The Division is recently established and you will be responsible for developing and managing a merchandise strategy to achieve our mail order and retail budgets. Supported by a team of merchandisers, you will ensure stock allocation, replenishment, stock control and develop menu merchandising for our retail shops and mail order catalogues.

You will have an in-depth understanding of retail merchandising, range planning and experience

of compiling sales and stock budgets and buy plans. You will be an excellent communicator with a flexible approach and possess strong leadership skills.

Closing date: 5th September 1996.

Interviews: 16th September 1996.

For an information pack, including a statement of Barnardo's Basis and Values and Equal Opportunity Policy, contact Janice Swyers, Barnardo's. Tel: 0181 551 7411 (answerphone). Please quote Ref 1986.

Barnardos
Giving children a chance

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Writers/researchers also wanted (deadline 13 September, London). For more information, please reply with CV or other relevant details to:

Training Dept, BPRO Ltd
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Reading, RG7 4EZ.
by fax to: 0118 981 5365,
or by email to: 100412313@compuserve.com.

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Our client has a preference for career-minded graduates in their 20's with a background in sales/marketing or financial markets. For an initial confidential discussion please contact: Claire Francis at ALG on 0171 242 4444 (0976 327738, 34 hours). Fax: 0171 404 3656.

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Attractive salary for the right candidate.

The Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research (CAMR) provides products and services on a commercial basis through innovative applied microbiology to meet healthcare and environmental needs worldwide. At present CAMR has an annual turnover of some £17m.

We require a Business Development Manager with strong commercial awareness to support and assist the Director of Business Development in carrying out CAMR's programme of marketing and business development activity. You will be responsible for promoting the image, products and services of CAMR in a proactive and effective manner. Your remit will be to develop new relationships and strengthen CAMR's client base within the UK and overseas.

You must have previous private-sector experience in commercial/business development activities and experience in commercialising technology sourced from industry and academia. You must have the ability to operate at board and managerial level and possess well-developed communication and influencing skills. You must also be familiar with the process of contract negotiation. You must have a degree (or a higher degree) in a scientific discipline coupled with relevant research experience. A relevant business qualification would also be desirable.

To apply please send your full CV including 2 referees with a one page statement describing what you are able to offer for this key position. Additional information about CAMR, its products and services are available by telephoning 01980 612600 (24 hour answerphone service). Please quote post reference number 0920/29.

Please address your response marked Confidential, Personnel Department, Centre for Applied Microbiology & Research, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JG to be received by Friday, 6th September.

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To succeed you'll need to be as confident in your interpersonal skills as you are in your numerical analysis, able to negotiate agreement over the phone and operate independently in our refreshingly non-hierarchical company culture.

At least 2 years' experience in a commercial environment, a Business, Marketing or Economics qualification and a talent for using Excel spreadsheets are all essential requirements.

You should also be keen to experience big projects, using your enthusiasm and skills in an environment where talent has the freedom to grow and there is genuine opportunity to develop into a broader business development role.

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Send your CV to: MD, Ref: ST608, Carter Consulting Group Ltd, Fulton House, Fulton Road, Wembley Park, London, HA9 0TF.

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MARKETING EXECUTIVE

This position has opened up as a result of the recent successful UK launch of a major international brand in the health and beauty sector.

The ideal candidate will have a marketing degree or a sound understanding of marketing disciplines, be numerate, articulate and self-motivated. Computer literacy, report generation and communication skills are essential. Minimum of one to two years experience in direct marketing, retail or related industries required. London based. Salary negotiable £16-£20k.

Telephone: Ingrid Pires on 0181 941 7968
Daytime/Evening.

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PROFILES

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PROFILES

Account Manager

c.£35,000 + benefits, including car South Wales/£30m turnover

Our client is part of a US Group with a world-wide reputation for technical excellence in the volume manufacture of consumer products. Renowned for quality service, with a high profile customer base, this rapidly expanding, progressive organisation is well positioned to achieve further improvements in its operating performance.

Recognising that a superior customer service is critical to business growth, the Company wishes to recruit a high calibre Account Manager, dedicated to the specific development of the OEM and Software market.

This is a newly created position offering wide ranging commercial challenges in an extremely dynamic and

quality driven environment. Reporting at director level, the post holder will take full responsibility for commissioning and project managing a team of internal representatives who will be dedicated to supporting the specific requirements of customers. With active involvement in the continued development of new business both nationally and in Europe all applicants must be fully conversant in the sales and tendering process.

Applicants should be of graduate calibre with a track record in account management, preferably within the OEM or Software industries. Additionally, you will be ambitious and innovative and looking to make a real contribution to the business success within a Company where effective and original ideas are readily adopted.

Please send full personal and career details, including current remuneration and daytime telephone number to NBS, 103 - 105 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EE, quoting reference 949A. Please indicate any companies to whom you would not wish your details to be sent.



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KAFCO Managing Director

Dhaka/Chittagong, Bangladesh

The Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (KAFCO) is a 100% export orientated multinational fertilizer company and at \$550 million, is the largest ever foreign investment in the country. In addition to the Bangladesh Government, the project has attracted blue-chip multinationals including Marubeni, Chiyoda, Haldor Topsoe and Siamcarbon and premier Government agencies including OECF, IFU and CDC. The Board now seeks to appoint a seasoned professional Managing Director to succeed the incumbent, who is retiring at the end of 1996. This is an outstanding career opportunity within a truly unique operation of critical importance to the development of the region, which offers a three year renewable contract and a first-class expatriate package (including furnished housing, leave passages, schooling etc.)

THE ROLE

- Reporting to the Board you will develop and lead the strategic direction of the business.
- Your objective will be to achieve world class standards in every sphere of the company's activities.
- Leading a team of 700 employees in Chittagong and Dhaka, in addition to setting and achieving manufacturing and commercial objectives, you will be accountable for the company's entire operations, profitability and growth.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

- Preferably a graduate engineer with an established track record and at least 4 years' senior management, technical, commercial and marketing experience.
- A skilled negotiator and outstanding leader, with broad managerial, technical, commercial and marketing experience.
- Substantial experience of living and working in developing countries, with exposure to cross cultural environments and relationships.

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria are invited to send their CV, current salary details and a passport sized photograph to both addresses given below, marking the envelope (KAFCO/1200/96), by September 30, 1996.

The Chairman
Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited
GPO Box No. 3049
90-91, Motijheel Commercial Area (15th floor)
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

Mr. Kevin Magner
J. Henry Schroder & Co. Ltd
120 Cheapside
London EC2V 6DS
United Kingdom

The Royal College of Midwives GENERAL SECRETARY

c.£50,000 negotiable plus benefits

The leading professional and trade union organisation for midwives in the United Kingdom is seeking a midwife who is a visionary leader and team builder to work with Council in continuing to develop services for midwives into the millennium.

The successful applicant will be qualified to Masters level with wide management experience at senior level in the Health Service and will have represented midwifery at national level.

Knowledge of the complexities of the current professional and work environment for midwives is vital to this role.

The General Secretary is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Midwifery and as such will need to be able to interact in international forums and have some knowledge of relevant non-Governmental organisations.

Application by detailed CV with covering letter to:

T. Few, HR Manager
The Royal College of Midwives
15 Mansfield Street
London W1M 0BE
Tel: 0171 872 5196

An information pack is available. Briefing meetings can be arranged upon request. Closing date for receipt of application is Friday 13th September. Interviews to be held in the week commencing 23 September.

FUTURES SALESPERSON

A major US investment bank seeks to employ a Salesperson with a minimum of five years experience specialising in Canadian Equity and Fixed Income Futures. Candidates must have a proven client base, a thorough knowledge of US/global financial futures markets and options trading and at least two other languages.

Interested candidates should send their details to Box No 8375 c/o Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Virginia Street, Po Box 3553, London E1 9GA

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Seeking two recently qualified ACA's for minimum 12 month contracts. Big 6 firm requires an audit senior and an ACA needed for an expanding business, turnover approx. \$2 million.

Attractive salaries/tax free advantages.
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LOCKINGTON, DERBY, DE74 2RL.
TEL: 01509 670022
FAX: 01509 670707

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P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

EQUITY DERIVATIVES

London-based

Our client is a leading investment bank with significant operations worldwide. A new position has arisen within their Equity Derivatives Division, to develop the structured marketing effort in Switzerland. This role involves marketing to private banks, insurance companies and money managers. Business development through existing contacts and networking will form a significant part of this role. The role demands a creative approach to problem solving, and a sound understanding of the relevant business and regulations is fundamental.

Candidates should possess sound academic qualifications, with a business school background. In-depth and practical derivative skills, as well as product flexibility gained within a broking role, are essential. An in-depth understanding of the Swiss culture and working practices, gained through having lived or worked in Switzerland, is also essential. Relevant language skills, ie Swiss German, are required, as are interpersonal, oral and written communication skills, to assist candidates in developing a new client base.

Compensation will be commensurate with knowledge and experience.

Applicants should send a full CV with covering letter, to: Alastair Lyon, Confidential Reply Handling Service, Ref 515, Associates in Advertising, 5 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BH.

Applications will only be forwarded to this client, but please clearly indicate any organisation to whom your details should not be sent.

ASSOCIATES IN ADVERTISING

Computer company require PACBASE CONSULTANT

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MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS PACBASE EXPERIENCE. SALARY 24K-28K + BENEFITS

CV to: Mr Newman
CSC (GM) Ltd
Rusmore House
8 Newbold Terrace
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 4EA

NETWORK MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

required with experience of SNMP/UNIX/TPNS for high speed data services roles. London based, 6 month contract initially, to start ASAP.
Rates negotiable according to experience.

Please contact Liz Corby at Oldham & Tomkins

on Tel: 01753 850007

or Fax: 01753 857449

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Full training provided for our ambitious individuals, aged 22-30 who feel that a change of direction is required. If you have done so in the past, we will consider you for a position that will allow you to use your skills in a new way. Please call:

GLYN MOSS
0171 379 6294

Shareholder Analysis/L.R.

Commitment required to analyse shareholder bases of UK and international companies and use results to design and implement director communications and company programmes. Applicants should have good knowledge of international investment management community, experience in quantitative shareholder analysis and investor relations, and strong computer skills. Salary £24K plus bonus. Good CV to Personnel Mgr, 8 Marylebone Place, London W1N 1TE.

Edinburgh
Development &
Investment

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

c. £70,000 plus car and bonus

Successful and expanding property development company

Edinburgh Development & Investment Ltd. was established in 1988 and is wholly owned by The City of Edinburgh Council. Its objective is to act commercially while contributing to the development of the infrastructure of the City in terms of good modern design, high quality product and added value in either economic development or social terms.

The Chief Executive will be responsible to the Board for leading the strategic development of the company and for the initiation, development and implementation of its

activities presently in the areas of office development, retail, housing and industrial development.

Candidates will be professionally qualified with quality experience in the property market. A knowledge of local government as well as other public sector funding agencies would be useful. In addition to a strong empathy with the aims of the company, candidates must bring the attributes of strategic vision, innovation, leadership and good communication and negotiating skills along with strong administrative qualities and managerial experience.

Please write enclosing a CV to:

Willie Finlayson, Finlayson Wagner Black Ltd, 19 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH. Fax: 0131 539 7086.

Finlayson
Wagner Black
EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Manufacturing/Engineering

East Anglia

c.£45,000,car,benefits

This appointment represents an integral part of the ambitious expansion and development plans of this major operation. Our client, part of an international group, designs, manufactures and supplies a brand leading range of engineering products to UK and export markets. Reporting to the Managing Director, responsibility will be for the full range of human resource requirements; including the formulation and implementation of new H.R. policies and strategies, controlling and maximising the performance of the H.R. function; and playing an active role as part of the company's senior management team. The company is committed to the development of a continuous improvement culture, the ongoing introduction of modern systems and control, and the general enhancement of quality and customer service standards: this role will be key to the achievement of these objectives. Aged 30+, of degree level calibre, you will have gained broadly based H.R. experience within a manufacturing/engineering operation. A working appreciation of change management, experience of the introduction of modern manufacturing systems, the ability to perform effectively at board level, and first class communication/presentation skills are all essential factors. This is an excellent career opportunity for an ambitious H.R. professional. Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to Adderley Featherstone plc, 12 Harley Street, London W1N 1ED. Tel: 0171 637 5076. Fax: 0171 436 8954.

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Gas Strategy Manager A Pivotal Role in a New Organisation

PowerGen is now firmly established as one of the world's leading generating companies and, from an excellent financial and technical base, a number of significant potential business initiatives are being pursued.

PowerGen Gas has been created to optimise the company's position in the gas market in its broadest sense and it is the company's ambition to expand its gas business significantly.

Working closely with the Managing Director PowerGen Gas, you will develop this business's gas strategy and business plans. In addition, you will have a key role in coordinating cross business gas related strategies and be responsible for market and competitor analyses. You will also monitor world energy trends, regulatory and Government issues and manage a small support team.

In complete confidence, please write with CV to: John Ditch, Managing Director, Simpson Crowden Consultants Ltd, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA. Tel: 0171 629 5909.

Simpson Crowden CONSULTANTS

You have extensive experience in the UK gas market gained at a senior level, are fully aware of the latest developments within it, including European issues, and have the ability to take a visionary approach towards the commercial opportunities, both medium and long term, that this rapidly evolving sector presents.

The position is a highly visible one which, in a company such as PowerGen, offers considerable scope to demonstrate ability and ensure attractive career progression.

The remuneration package includes company car and bonus and it is not envisaged that salary will be a barrier to the right candidate. Relocation assistance to the Coventry area will be available where appropriate.

VISA International Marketing Manager Commercial Card Products

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Based: London

Attractive

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We are seeking a very special person to achieve market leadership of the Visa Purchasing Product in key commercial markets across Europe. A territory of great scope and cultural variety - but united by the acceptance and renown of the Visa brand. We have developed a first class product backed by considerable investment. You could be our most important yet.

Reporting to the Senior Vice President - Commercial Products, you will have responsibility for the development and implementation of the marketing strategy for this new product aimed at making business to business purchasing more cost effective. Key activities include the creation of an implementation support programme, PR, research and further product development to ensure continued competitive advantage. You will also be supported by your own highly motivated team and the resources of external agencies. The successful management of such relationships is a key success factor of the role.

With at least 5 years' experience in marketing, you will have managed both staff and external agencies/consultants and will be adept at handling complex marketing projects, preferably in an international company. A banking/financial services background would be advantageous, you may also come from a consulting background and have experience of business to business marketing. Either way, familiarity with IT processes, excellent communication skills and fluency in at least two foreign languages are essential. As you would expect, overseas travel features frequently.

The benefits, in terms of reward and career development in this world renowned organisation, are exceptional.

Please apply (quoting ref PF/ST/1) to Europool, 10 Heath Villas, The Vale of Health, London, NW3 1AW, United Kingdom. Fax +44 171 435 3369.



The Source of Young Europeans in Business

Director Central Laser Facility

Based Oxfordshire - up to £61K

The Central Laser Facility (CLF) is one of CCLRC's major central facilities providing access to lasers principally as a contracted service to the Research Councils for a 250 strong UK academic research community. In addition, CLF contracts to the European Union (EU) to make the lasers available to European user teams and there are extensive collaborations with Laboratories overseas.

Two world class high power laser installations using solid-state neodymium glass laser technology (Vulcan) and KrF gas laser technology (Titan) are operated and developed. These lasers deliver focused intensity up to 10^{16} W/cm² at the international leading edge of performance and support research in high intensity interaction phenomena, plasma physics, X-ray lasers and laser fusion.

In addition, a suite of small laser systems is provided, which together comprise the Lasers for Science Facility (LSF). There are five laser Laboratories having a variety of advanced frequency tunable and ultra-short pulse lasers of table top scale and a loan pool of eight high quality commercial laser systems. The LSF supports research mainly in chemistry but also in physics, biology and engineering.

All the facilities are in continuous operation for users except during scheduled maintenance and development. CLF staff support and collaborate with the visiting experimental teams and a theory group provides and develops sophisticated numerical modelling of experiments.

Professor M H Key, the current Director of the CLF, will be leaving the Central Laboratory shortly to take up an appointment in the USA and a successor is required to be appointed as soon as possible. The Director of the Central Laser Facility will report to the Director, Research and Development for the management and development of the Facility. This involves day to day management, the longer term strategy of the Facility and responsibility for the work programmes and total resources used. A key part of the postholder's responsibilities will be obtaining support of the scientific community, including Research Councils and other funding agencies, for the Facility's activities. The Director of the Facility will be its Chief Scientist and must have an established international reputation and a record of achievement in leading scientific activities in the laser field. The ability to develop new applications for life sciences, biology and materials will be a priority task.

The postholder will have line management responsibility for around 70 staff and have financial responsibility for a budget of over £5 million. He/she will be an excellent communicator, persuasive and influential and able to interact at the most senior levels within the Research Councils and develop relationships with other organisations including those having large scale facilities. As a member of the Laboratory Management Board, the Director of the CLF will be expected to contribute fully to the overall business of the Central Laboratory.

This will be either a permanent appointment or a fixed term appointment of up to 5 years, with a benefits package in the range £44k to £61k p.a. The appointee will be eligible to join the Central Laboratory's non-contributory pension scheme. Applicants should send a CV, a statement about their achievements, details of present salary and any other relevant supporting information including names of two professional referees to: Derek Hothersall, Establishment Officer, CCLRC, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX1 10QX. Telephone: 01235 446798. CCLRC is working towards equal opportunities and operates a non-smoking policy.

COUNCIL FOR THE CENTRAL LABORATORY OF THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Join the True Internationalists

Competitive Package - Based Central London

THE COMPANY

Many of our competitors claim to operate internationally, most do not. Antal International is one of the few search and selection companies that is equipped to execute cross border, pan-European and North American assignments. We pool our resources through a fully integrated office network where everyone has the incentive to share information for the benefit of our clients. This ensures that we are winning business against our larger competitors. Our vision is to be the number one in global emerging markets by the year 2004.

THE ROLE

We are able to offer truly outstanding opportunities to all our consultants based in our new West End offices. We offer excellent career progression, with the possibility of travel to our overseas offices. By use of our sophisticated client management techniques, portfolio approach, information sharing and established infrastructure we anticipate your success will be 25 to 40% greater than with a domestic competitor. You will have operational responsibility for assignments across disciplines but within specific industry sectors. You will be expected to gain in-depth knowledge of the industry sectors in which you choose to operate. Strong areas for the company include FMCG, Telecoms, Pharmaceuticals, Legal, Engineering, Financial Services and Banking.

THE PERSON

If you recognise the benefit of combining strong individual sales skills with a team-based approach to sourcing across international boundaries, we need you in our team. Qualities of 'thought leadership' are especially important for our clients in the developing and emerging markets. Your own initiative and results orientation will ensure a tremendously rewarding career within an organisation that has an assignment completion rate that leads to 70% repeat business. No other international recruitment company is developing as rapidly or shares our vision.

Interested individuals should send a full resume with covering letter quoting ref 3015 to: Antal International, 1 Copper Street, London WC1E 6JA, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 171 637 2001. Fax: +44 (0) 171 637 0949.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

ANTAL INTERNATIONAL

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Sales Director Europe

Based London

As part of CUC International, which has over 10,000 employees and 46 million members, we work in partnership with our clients to provide membership-based discount services that enable them to acquire and retain their own customers. We also publish City guides which feature restaurants prepared to give a 25% discount. They range from 2 Michelin star fine dine restaurants to local brasseries and national fast food chains. Other distribution channels include electronic loyalty programmes and the Internet.

You will lead, manage and direct our sales team, based in seven offices across Europe, responsible for acquiring and maintaining the merchants. Our merchant base currently totals 13,000 and apart from restaurants, includes retailers, hotels and holiday/travel companies. You will be personally responsible for liaising with the head offices of our major accounts to ensure their full potential is maximised and that your team is providing service to the highest standards at all times.

You should have substantial experience of sales and people management, including budget responsibility, preferably within the hotel and restaurant sector, as well as management experience within a professional multi-site business. You must have the personal qualities needed to relate to people at all levels, while a second European language, ideally French, would be a definite advantage.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package as well as an exciting opportunity to really progress your career in a group which has recently become one of the top 500 in the world in terms of market value.

Please send your CV, with salary expectations, to Chris Kennedy, Managing Director - Europe, Entertainment Publications Ltd, 2 Carriage Row, 183 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BT.

entertainment

Euromoney Publications PLC

The book publishing division of Euromoney needs a graduate, probably with two or three years' experience in a commercial, but not necessarily publishing, environment, to join an established sponsorship sales team.

The job is primarily to sell big-ticket sponsorship deals for Euromoney's books to senior banking, corporate and government officers in face-to-face presentations. This involves extensive international travel. Candidates must be highly articulate and personable. They need a knowledge of or interest in economic, financial and business matters. They must be capable of researching and writing detailed proposals for books. Responsibility will come very quickly to the successful candidate, who will be expected to work independently and administer his or her own time effectively.

The position offers an adequate basic salary, and a genuine opportunity for high earnings from commission and profit share.

To apply, please telephone Christopher Garnett on 0171 779 8562

Magellan/Passport Engineers

BCI Inc., an international telecommunications services company, is seeking qualified Magellan/Passport Engineers for positions in Europe and the United States with experience in one or more of the following areas: Networks, Customer support, Sonet/SDH. Send your resume to: BCI Inc., Attention MLS, P.O. Box 221590, Chantilly, VA, USA, 20151-3813, Fax 001-703-222-0205 or Email <StocksML@aol.com>.

DMS 100 Operational Testers

BCI Inc., an international telecommunications services company, is seeking qualified DMS 100 Operational Testers for positions in Europe and the United States. Candidates must have experience conducting the following tests: power verification, system loading & traffic, terminal and data link set up, core PM & TTP diagnostic, LAN, assessment, alarm, AMA, tone, announcement, trunk circuit and custom call feature. Send your resume to: BCI Inc., Attention MLS, P.O. Box 221590, Chantilly, VA, USA, 20151-3813, Fax 001-703-222-0205 or Email <StocksML@aol.com>.

AIR FRANCE

Applications are invited for the following positions which will shortly be available at our Head Office in Hammersmith.

Bilingual Personal Assistant to the National Sales Manager
(initial contract 6 months)

Reporting to a senior expatriate Manager, the successful candidate will, in addition to normal secretarial duties, assist with the day-to-day administration of the Sales Department and will frequently have direct contact with clients. Applicants must have at least 3 years relevant secretarial experience and be totally fluent in French and English.

Starting annual salary after 12 months continuous service approximately £14,400 plus the usual benefits associated with a large international airline.

Cashier - Finance Department (maternity cover)

This position, reporting directly to the Finance Manager, involves liaison with our bankers on a daily basis to ensure that our cash flow is properly controlled. The cashier is also responsible for VAT returns.

Candidates should have a background in Accountancy with the appropriate qualifications, and a very high standard of written and spoken French. A knowledge of French accounting systems would be advantageous but not essential. Minimum age 21 years.

Monthly salary approximately £1,000.

Applications in writing with full CV to:
The Recruitment Manager
Air France
Cotuit Court
Hammersmith Road
London W6 7JP

to arrive no later than Friday 6th September 1996

No agencies please.

THE TIMES SUPPLEMENTS LIMITED

Systems Support Assistant

We need an Assistant to join a young, dedicated team providing support and a full range of IT services to three prestigious newspapers. Your role will be to run the Help Desk, providing telephone and face-to-face support in deadline-critical situations. You will also identify issues that need escalating to other members of the team. There are opportunities for expanding the role to include some Project and development work, including within our expanding Internet services.

We require someone with prior Help Desk/User Support experience, in either a Mac or PC environment, preferably in publishing. Competence in one hardware platform and associated software would be acceptable, as we would offer training in the other.

Salary circa £17k plus benefits
Interviews to be conducted week beginning Sept 16

CVs and covering letter stating current salary by Sept 11 to: Information Systems Manager, The Times Supplements Limited, 66-68 East Smithfield, London E1 9XJ.

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We are a highly professional publishing company with 26 years experience.

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If you want a real sales opportunity or simply want to earn money quickly then phone me immediately.

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- Novelty Product, massive demand
- Simple, effective demonstration with a proven high conversion ratio
- Excellent commission rate - paid daily
- Guaranteed exclusive area

We have tested the market. We know the response. We now require professional, enthusiastic sales people. Only those looking to earn a MINIMUM £30,000 per annum will be considered. We expected several people to become area managers and earn considerably more.

For initial chat and possible interview telephone:

01132 455 704

OHC RELOCATION

Relocation Co-ordinator and Managers required for exciting new company being established to bring a new idea to the relocation industry.

Experience in the industry is not essential but enthusiasm, energy and the ability to get on with people is required. A new company, a new approach and a chance to be part of the founding team.

Apply in writing to: David Freeman at OHC Relocation, 1 Pemberton Row, Potters Lane, London EC4A 3EL, quoting reference DC7.

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Our clients represent some of the leading city firms and blue chip companies. We provide them with hand picked graduates for entry-level traineeships or management development programmes. If you wish to be considered, please forward your CV, together with a brief letter outlining your optimal career, to:

ADVANCEMENT CAREERS LTD. (CITY)
Florence House, 25 Station Rd.
New Barnet,
Herts., EN5 1PH.

ACL

Graduate Opportunities

Morse is the UK's fastest growing computer company. We supply high value systems to blue chip clients. The following positions offer excellent starting points for graduates seeking a career in a professional, stimulating environment.

Sales Administrators

Providing essential liaison and administration as part of multi-million account support team. Requiring strong business skills to co-ordinate resources and develop customer relationships. Salary to £20,000.

Customer Support

Part of our help desk team responsible for administration of contracts, tracking progress of help calls, briefing and despatching engineers. Salary to £16,000.

To apply, call Caroline Mackison 0181 380 8101.

MORSE

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You'd like to control your own future, your earnings and your lifestyle.

As the leading offshore financial planning specialists we can offer you a serious results-orientated package coupled with the security, corporate strength, full on going training and outstanding career opportunities of a major international finance group.

Expansion in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe means that we now need more successful sales professionals. Mature achievers, used to negotiating and handling complex portfolios at senior levels to give investment advice to high net worth individuals. Able to demonstrate a pedigree of career progression, successful candidates will need to possess real ambition and drive, and must be willing to relocate in order to achieve their goals.

Interested? Then send your CV, a recent photograph, and a covering letter clearly highlighting your achievements to our managing consultant, Frank Ingram, quoting reference 21877B, Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SZ.

Fax: +44 81 332 6902.

e-mail address: lansdowne@diapipex.com.

Interviews can be arranged in all major centres throughout the above regions.



FINEXCO

Help Direct our Strategic Development BUSINESS PLANNING MANAGER

Swindon

c.£30,000 + car + bonus + benefits

As the leading building society committed to retaining its mutual status, Nationwide constantly seeks to enhance its understanding of the financial services marketplace as a means of sharpening competitive strategies and improving business performance. To stay ahead in a fiercely competitive marketplace, we recognise the vital importance of high quality research and analysis aimed at identifying market trends and maximising business opportunities.

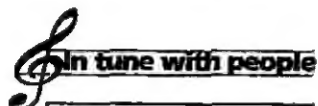
An excellent opportunity has arisen within our Planning Department in Head Office for an individual who can combine first-class analytical skills with a keen sense of commercial relevance. The role involves the leadership of a small team of analysts with the primary objective of identifying and developing business opportunities through monitoring developments across the full spectrum of the Society's markets and evaluating the business implications.

The ideal candidate is likely to be a graduate, probably in an economics or business-related subject and possibly with a higher degree. They will have extensive experience of market analysis in a commercial environment leading to operational activity, preferably in the financial services industry. The role requires proven skills in business modelling and probably some experience of managing others. The interpersonal skills necessary to develop effective working relationships with key personnel throughout the group are essential, along with the ability to deliver high quality work to tight deadlines.

We offer an excellent package including car, subsidised mortgage, private health insurance, pension scheme and relocation package.

To apply, please send a CV stating current salary to: Elizabeth Honey, Human Resources Operations, Ground Floor Block B, Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 1HR.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 13 September 1996.



Working for equality of opportunity nationwide.

DOCUMENTARY CREDIT CLERK

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years work experience in either a bank or with a Commodity Trading Company, involved in commodities trade finance with an emphasis on Documentary credits. The role includes liaison between the different parties involved in trade-related financing both within and outside the company.

Candidates should have previous experience of issuing Letters of Credit/Indemnities and be comfortable in structuring and reviewing transactions independently.

In addition to banking experience, excellent communication and organisational skills are essential together with good keyboard skills and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word.

Must have initiative, be motivated and an ability to work to deadlines and under pressure.

Preferred age: 25+

Please Reply to Box No 8315

APACS

Executive, European Affairs and Single Currency Unit
Banking Environment
City, attractive package
Salary c£25K

The Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) is an association of major banks and building societies at the heart of the UK payments industry. It manages the major UK payments clearing systems and ensures their operational efficiency. It provides a forum for the discussion and development of inter-bank co-operative activity in the payments industry.

You will support the work of the European Affairs and Single Currency Unit in the provision of accurate and timely information and analysis of developments in payment systems in Europe and on the work and stance of all relevant authorities. A key strategic issue confronting the UK payments industry at present is the potential impact of a single currency. You will have a working knowledge of the payments business and an understanding of the inter-bank environment. You must demonstrate excellent communications and analytical skills which will enable you to develop proposals and produce logically structured, well argued analysis. You will be a graduate. A working knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage.

Applications, including CV with current salary details, should be sent by 13 September 1996, to Mrs Chris Bailey, Assistant Personnel Manager, APACS (Administration) Limited, Mercury House, Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1BF.

FINANCIAL APPOINTMENTS



FINANCE, CONTRACTS & ADMINISTRATION

Opportunities with a New Arrival
in Upstream Oil & Gas

Anadarko Algeria Corporation, a subsidiary of the highly successful US based Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, has made significant hydrocarbon discoveries in the Sahara desert. To support the exploitation of these fields, and the search for further reserves, Anadarko are establishing a UK headquarters in Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Consequently, we now have excellent opportunities for high-calibre professionals within the Finance, Contracts and Administration departments of this new office.

In all cases candidates should be graduates and/or professionally qualified, computer literate with a minimum of four years relevant upstream oil and gas experience. For the accountancy positions knowledge of the IDEAS accounts system is desirable and the ability to speak French is an advantage for some positions.

Financial Systems Co-ordinator

- Liaison between IT and Financial departments
- Advise on applications
- Develop customised reports
- Train users in financial applications (Ref AAC5)

Employee Accountant

- Coordinate UK payroll processing
- Employee Expenses
- VAT records and administration
- Assist with audits and special projects (Ref AAC5)

Senior Budget Analyst

- Lead team effort to develop budgets
- Production and revision of reports
- Participate in development and approval of AFEs
- Develop procedures for construction projects cost control
- French language an advantage (Ref AAC5)

Administrative Analyst

- Prepare & process AFEs
- Code and process timesheets
- Expense report coding and processing
- Office services and equipment lease support (Ref AAC2)

Joint Ventures Accountant

- Management reporting
- Joint Interest billings
- Assist with Algerian tax on remuneration
- Help implement oil production accounting system (Ref AAC6)

Contracts Administrator

- Administration of contracts from initial request through to award, completion and close out
- Assist in drafting of agreements and amendments
- Coordinate contract approval procedures
- Draft and monitor correspondence
- Maintain contracts database and file/distribution system
- French language an advantage (Ref AAC4)

Fixed Assets Accountant

- Reconcile inventory of fixed assets to accounting records
- Depreciation of JV fixed assets
- Processing of warehouse inventory records
- Assist with audits and special projects (Ref AAC7)

Anadarko Algeria Corporation has made a long term commitment by establishing its headquarters in the UK. The company is expected to grow and will offer good career prospects to results orientated, high-calibre candidates.

To be considered for these positions, please send full career and remuneration details, quoting the appropriate reference number to: Digby Jay Jones, Oil & Gas - Search - Selection, The Atrium Court, Apex Plaza, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1AX.

Fax: 01734 463715.

DIGBY JAY JONES
OIL & GAS - SEARCH - SELECTION

CREME DE LA CREME

DTP Operators X 2

Salary Negotiable

Elite Global Investment Bank have positions for experienced desktop publishers. Working with a friendly and progressive team, you will be responsible for preparation of marketing/presentation materials to promote the Bank's services/products. Essentially MS Office experience is necessary, preferably gained within Banking industry. Ideally you should be innovative, bubbly and well presented. Remuneration is totally negotiable and profit share schemes are on offer too.

Ref: ARW1

CITY FINANCIAL LIMITED
Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5QQ
Tel: 0171-628 6663
Fax: 0171-628 1700

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ORGANISING COMPANY require SECRETARY/SALES COORDINATOR

for busy sales/marketing office involved in the Middle East. Challenging position for someone willing to take responsibility. Word for Windows experience essential. Short-hand useful. Good opportunity for college leaver. Written applications to: Miss M. George, Overseas Exhibition Services Ltd., 11, Manchester Square, London, W1M 5AB. No Agencies.

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Join the exciting world of Central London property with the City's most progressive Estate Agent. We require a dynamic, young, energetic, and motivated individual to join our team. You will be responsible for the sale and letting of property. Above all, you must be a team player and have a strong desire to succeed. Salary is commensurate with experience. Tel: 0171 373 5533

SKI CHALET STAFF WITH A DIFFERENCE

The Ski Company, the undisputed market leader in luxury holidays is looking for a limited number of outstanding couples to join its chalet team in the Alps. For the right people, we offer an exceptional opportunity for career advancement. Your reward will be the benefits of running your own chalet, within the framework of a young, successful and expanding company. Terms and remuneration are excellent. One of you would be an experienced cook or professional chef and would be able to speak either French or German. You should be hospitable, personable and friendly, with a sense of professional pride.

Write or telephone: Kate Spector, Sloane Square House, Holborn Place, London SW1W 8NS. Tel: 0171 750 9600 or fax CV on 0171 730 9376.

EXECUTIVE PA - 1st CLASS PACKAGE

An exciting opportunity for a European based with excellent English and at least two other languages. Working for the head of a major international consultancy and accountancy firm, you will have top notch personal skills including shorthand and be a self-starter, well organised and used to playing a role as the top man.

Written applications including your CV, in confidence to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

Belle
20 Lincoln's Inn Fields London WC2A 3ED
Tel: 0171 404 4655 Fax: 0171 331 9192
SENIOR MEDICAL SECRETARY CENTRAL LONDON
c.£17,500 non-contract position, private healthcare, PPO, USTL. Join a young, energetic team to supervise and co-ordinate the secretarial and customer reception services in a busy department. Must be fully conversant with WordPerfect 5.1.

SENIOR SECRETARY CITY
to £20,000 + PPO, IPTL, private healthcare etc. Assist a Director and small team of famous City firm and one year excellent WP and diary management skills. Arranging travel will be a major part of this rewarding position. Must be fully conversant with MS-WAY v.a.
CASHER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN BANK CENTRAL LONDON
to £14,000 + full benefits
Join a young, enthusiastic team and maintain the till in sterling and foreign currency. One year's experience and fluent English and Arabic essential.
Please contact Liz Forristal to discuss

King Sturge
Personnel Secretary
West End
We are a leading firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants with nearly 500 Partners and Staff, and 12 offices in the UK.

The opportunity has arisen for a Secretary with at least 3 years' Personnel experience to work for the Head of Personnel, and with specific responsibilities for scheduling interviews, references, contracts of employment, database and personnel files, induction material, benefits administration.

Attention to detail and a broad range of IT skills are essential. Specifically W4W, Lotus 123/Excel. Ideally you will have previous knowledge of PS2000 or similar computerised records systems. You will be a professional, mature and friendly individual who enjoys a challenge and is seeking one.

To apply please forward your CV with a covering letter stating current salary to: Mary Murphy, Personnel Officer, King Sturge & Co., 7 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE.

PA/ADMINISTRATOR
40+/+ High calibre secretary (with shorthand) for a Fabric Agency to co-ordinate the Senior Partner's diary, travel etc. admin for 1 or 2.
Company in full expansion, interesting time to join us. Good sense of humour and ability to work as a member of a team essential. Salary commensurate with experience.
Please send CV with telephone number to:
Peter H. LEERS
SALES & PARTNERS
121 Crawford Street LONDON W1H 1AF

FRIEND & FALCKE
ESTATE AGENTS, VALUERS AND
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
A well established London Estate Agent requires secretaries for our offices at Battersea, Fulham and our London Department based in Chelsea. Agency experience is preferred but not essential. Candidates should be computer literate, self-motivated, well presented having an excellent telephone manner and the ability to deal with clients.
SALARY £15K pa. negotiable.
Please phone Patricia Peck on 0171-225-0814 or fax your CV to her on 0171-225-4720.

PROPERTY SECRETARY
Two charming secretaries desperately seeking organised and capable secretary to run small but busy office in heart of West End. Ability to work from own initiative is required. Ideally candidate should have minimum 2 years office experience with good Word for Windows & skills and skills. Good, friendly telephone manner and flexible attitude to working hours preferred. Salary £17,500.
Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:
The Sharewater Consultancy, 62 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LD

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR
Request for consideration - a leading international company requires a highly motivated, energetic, and experienced secretary to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

NON-SECRETARIAL
An exciting 1st role in an international telecommunications company. IPD qualified, HR and e-commerce training exp. required. Based in W. Sussex and London. Please call George Bennett at Manpower Recruitment on 0171 938 7718.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR BUSINESS TRANSLATOR
An investment bank focused on Eastern Europe requires a highly motivated and suitably qualified Senior Business Translator.
The successful candidate will provide translation services for senior management, including attendance at meetings, preparing and writing presentations, translating specialist and other business documents, assembling multi-lingual documents for clients, liaising with overseas offices. The position would be based in London reporting to an Executive Director responsible for developing Eastern European markets including Russia and Hungary.

The applicant must have excellent language skills and be fluent in Russian, Hungarian and English. Since over 80% of the role will involve languages other than English and ability to speak at least two other European languages (one of which should be Eastern European) would be a significant advantage. The successful candidate will also have at least 3 years relevant experience in a similar role at a senior level in an investment banking institution, and will display excellent management skills. The candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, including weekend duties. Salary £23,000 per annum. Please Reply to Box No 8486

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

ADMINISTRATOR/CLINIC COORDINATOR
To meet independent Valley Street Clinic with patients (Inpatient/Outpatient/Daycase), etc.

The position will suit an outgoing, organized person who is used to working in a professional environment.
Word processing experience, WPS, 1 and Windows 6.0 required.
Please reply, giving names of two referees, to: Mrs P. Hammons, London Gynaecology & Fertility Centre, Crown House, 112a Harley Street, London W1N 1AF.

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR

Small conference company based in West London, specialising in events on financial topics, needs a conference administrator/office administrator to handle delegate registration, liaise with venues and to assist in marketing.
Excellent opportunity for bright, energetic, hard-working person. Attention to detail, initiative and an efficient and timely manner essential. Salary commensurate with experience.
Apply in writing to:
Helen Douglas, International Conference Group, Suite 50,
Long Island House, 14 Weymouth Way, London, W3 0RG

SUPER SECRETARIES

PRESTIGIOUS position in Surrey PA to MD with excellent salary & benefits. £15,000. Please forward CV to: 01733 231223.

RECEPTION/Secretary required for a leading international company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

RECEPTION SELECTION

PRIVATE members club in Chelsea requires a receptionist/secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

EXPORT OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
required by manufacturer of high quality clothing accessories. Ability to work on own initiative as part of small team essential. Must have fluent German, plus one other European language. Experience in order collection useful.
Apply in writing to: 1 Diction, Carrington Hall Associates Ltd., Lee Yard, 123 St John Street, London EC4M 4TH.

NON-SECRETARIAL

WARRINGTON - Flexible and motivated person to assist in the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

FULHAM Estate Agent requires a sales negotiator to assist in the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

PROFILES

PROFESSIONAL/PA required for a leading international company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including scheduling, correspondence, and general administration. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: M. Dever, 4 Chappin Place, London W2 4DA.

Office.